

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

WINDSOR
AND
RICHMOND

THE STATE PLANNING AUTHORITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

50 cents.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

WINDSOR AND RICHMOND



The State Planning Authority of New South Wales

1967

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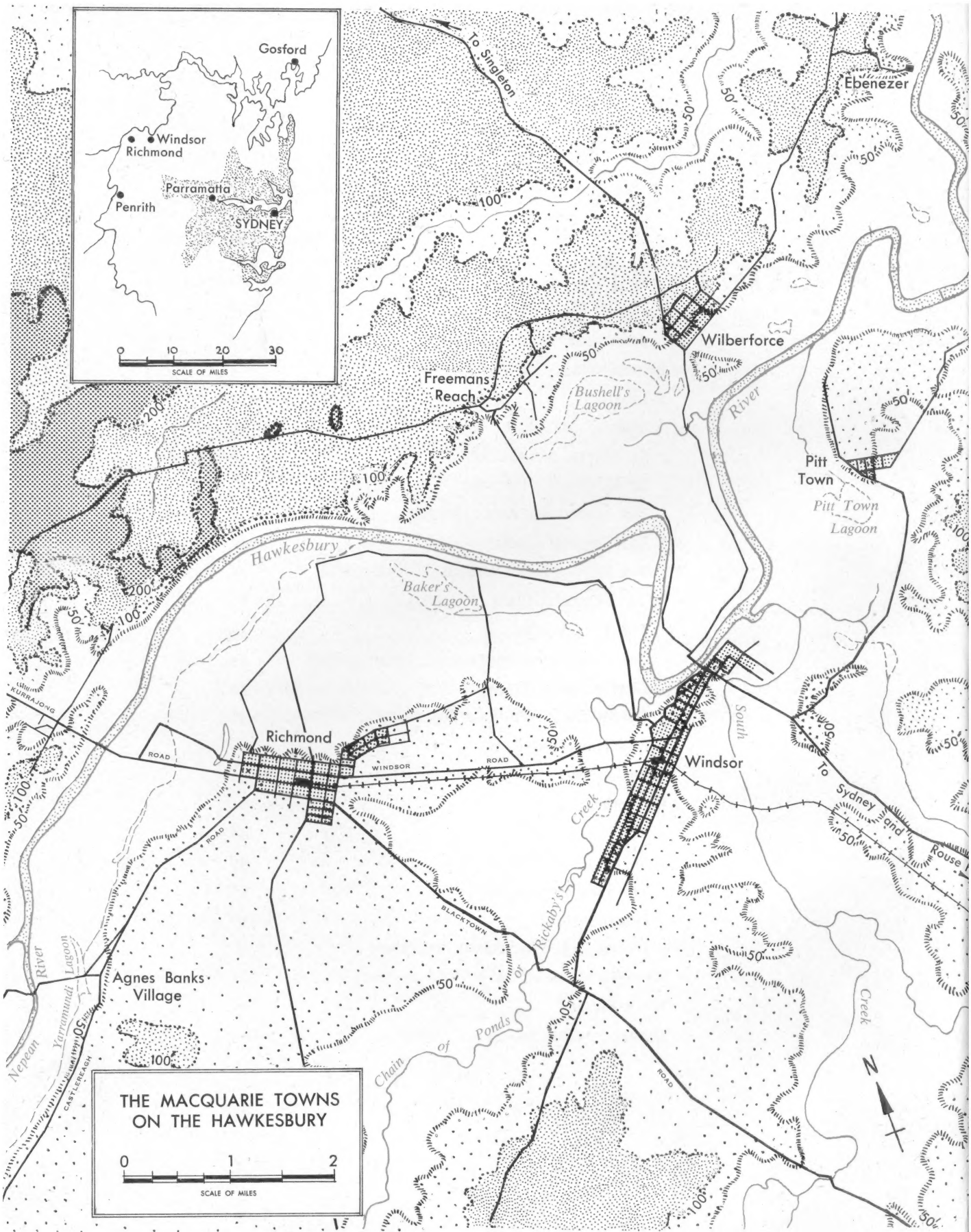
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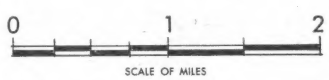
Most of the buildings described in this book are privately owned, and, with the exception of the churches, the hotel, and the Court House, are not open to casual visitors. Many of them, however, can be clearly seen from the street.

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THE MACQUARIE TOWNS
ON THE HAWKESBURY



INTRODUCTION

The history of Windsor and the Five Macquarie Towns is intimately connected with that of the Hawkesbury River, a noble waterway whose flats provided some of the best agricultural land in the early days of the colony, but whose recurrent and devastating floods made farming a hazardous and uncertain occupation.

In 1789 Governor Phillip followed the course of a large river leading inland from Broken Bay. He navigated the river up to a point slightly above the Grose River junction, and gave it the name of Hawkesbury. In 1794 Lieutenant-Governor Grose granted land to the first twenty-two settlers in the histrict, placing them along the banks of the Hawkesbury near its junction with South Creek, and within a few years a village known as Green Hills had developed. The settlers grew crops of maize and wheat, and the district rapidly became the main granary of the colony.

The Five Macquarie Towns — Windsor, Richmond, Pitt Town, Wilberforce and Castlereagh — were founded by Governor Macquarie in 1810 in an attempt to safeguard the farmers from floods by providing them with small town allotments in addition to their land grants, where they could build their houses and store their grain on higher ground. The arrangement was somewhat similar to that of a medieval village, with the difference that the farmers grouped themselves together for protection from the elements rather than from hostile attack, and they asserted their rights vigorously, helping to mould a new spirit in the penal colony.

Macquarie chose the town sites carefully, and gave them names.

*After viewing the ground and maturely considering the importance of the measure, the scite and situation of the new town was at length fixed finally upon. . . . After dinner I christened the new townships, drinking a bumper to the success of each. I gave the name of Windsor to the town intended to be erected in the district of the Green Hills, in continuation of the present village, from the similarity of this situation to that of the same name in England; the township in the Richmond District I have named Richmond from its beautiful situation and as corresponding with that of its district; the township for the Evan or Nepean District I have named Castlereagh in honor of Lord Viscount Castlereagh; the township of the Nelson District I have named Pitt-Town in honor of the immortal memory of the late great William Pitt, the Minister who originally planned this Colony; and the township for the Phillip District, on the north or left bank of the Hawkesbury, I have named Wilberforce in honor of and out of respect to the good and virtuous Wm. Wilberforce Esqr. M.P. a true patriot and the real friend of mankind.*¹

Thus the Five Towns grew up on the ridges of higher ground which punctuate the rich alluvial flats of the Upper Hawkesbury and Nepean valley. The Church and the Military were established at Windsor, adding impetus to its development. St. Matthew's rose on the high ground at the southern end of the early town, and the Court House was built near the Military Domain to the north. Both had the good fortune to be designed by Francis Greenway, and both remain as the most impressive and best preserved of his works.

¹ *Lachlan Macquarie, Journals of His Tours*, (Public Library of N.S.W., 1956), pp. 31-32, Dec. 6, 1810.

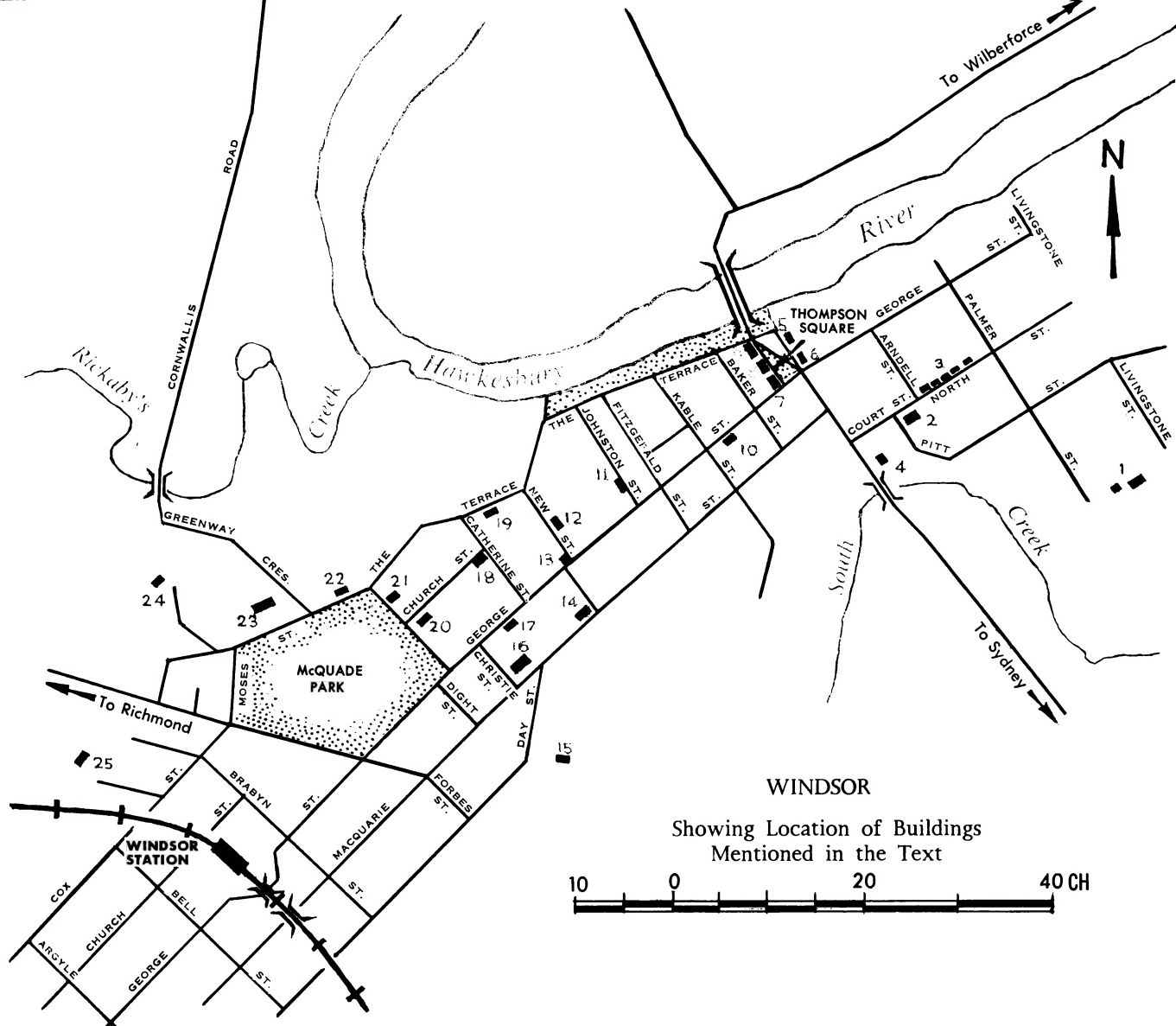
Governor Macquarie tried to encourage orderly development. A notice appeared in the *Sydney Gazette* on May 11, 1811: "The Towns of Parramatta and Windsor having been lately laid out and arranged into regular Streets, His Excellency hereby orders and directs, that no Person shall presume to build any House within these Towns, without previously submitting a Plan of such Houses and Out-Houses, or Offices as he may be disposed to Build, to the Magistrate resident in each of those Towns, who will be furnished by His Excellency with the suitable Instructions on that Head; and His Excellency gives this Public Notice, that no Town Leases will be granted in either of those Places, until he is furnished with, and approves of the Plan of such House and offices, as may be proposed to be built."

Later in the nineteenth century, with the change in the pattern of development following the expansion of settlement, the relative importance of the Five Towns as urban centres declined. The Hawkesbury River, once a busy waterway with boats laden with grain plying down to Sydney via Broken Bay, lost its importance as a transport route when roads improved and railways were built. By the 1880s too, the clearing of the farm lands in the Hawkesbury valley caused the silting up of the river, and with the decline in river traffic, Windsor gradually ceased to be the lively marketing and exchange centre that it had been in its early days. The main agricultural crops of the district have changed from wheat and maize to vegetables and citrus fruits.

Because the development of Windsor slackened off, many of its early buildings can still be found there, some shabby and badly treated, others blossoming again after careful restoration. As a town with strong echoes of its colonial days, it has few equals in Australia, and it is important that these tangible evidences of the past be retained in future years when greater pressures for change will be exerted on this pioneering district by the growing proximity and influence of the great metropolitan area of Sydney.

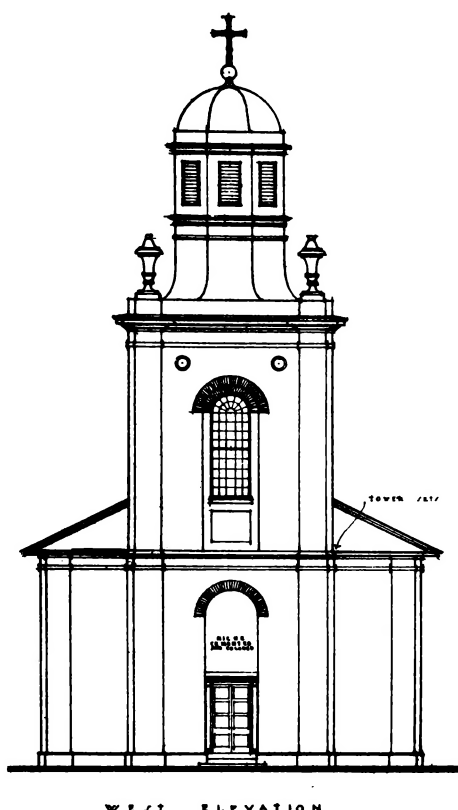
The Windsor buildings discussed in this book are fine examples of their various types — the Church and its Rectory, the large colonial terrace, the Court House, the pioneering homestead, the early hotel. Other buildings have been included which still possess features of historic and architectural interest, and which could still, with a little recognition of their worth, be restored to make a graceful contribution to one of Australia's most interesting colonial townships.

The towns of Richmond, Pitt Town and Wilberforce each lie within a radius of five miles from Windsor. Castlereagh, eight miles away, never really developed as a settlement. Wilberforce, west of the river, has an old church and school house, and a road leading on to Ebenezer three miles to the north where the oldest church in Australia still stands. Pitt Town has two small stone churches to form a nucleus, beautifully sited on the high ridge with a fine prospect across the Pitt Town Bottoms to St. Matthew's at Windsor. Richmond, particularly, repays investigation, with its church and other buildings dating back to colonial days, and its old farm houses with their paddocks falling away down to the river flats, present-day reminders of Macquarie's scheme of settlement.



1. The Peninsular House
2. The Windsor Court House
3. North Street cottages
4. The Toll House
5. 10 Thompson Square
6. 6 Thompson Square
7. The Macquarie Arms Hotel
8. The Hawkesbury Museum
9. The Doctor's House
10. 126 George Street
11. 23-27 Johnston Street
12. 14 New Street
13. 265 George Street

14. Methodist Church
15. Trevallyn, Day Street
16. Windsor District Hospital
17. 312 George Street
18. Bell Inn
19. Crescent Cottage
20. Roman Catholic Church (1840)
21. Fitzroy Cottage, 2 Tebbutt Street
22. St. Matthew's Rectory
23. St. Matthew's Church
24. Claremont Cottage
25. Fairfield



ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

Moses Street, Windsor

Under Macquarie's administration, Windsor acquired more than fourteen public buildings of various kinds, and of these the most imposing was Greenway's St. Matthew's Church, still named by many as the most beautiful building in the country. Macquarie chose the exact site for it when he formally established the town of Windsor in 1810.

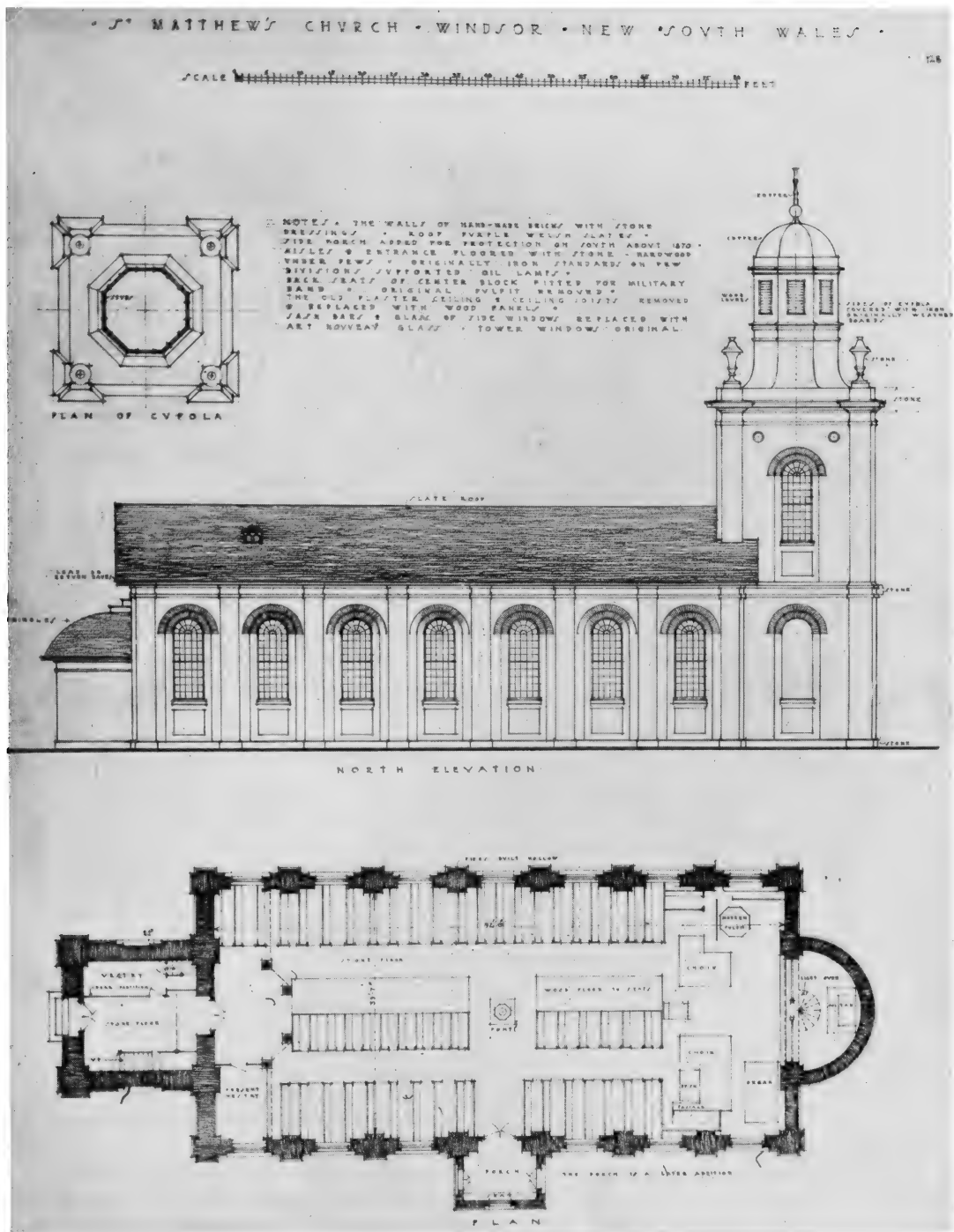
In 1817, he wrote to Lord Bathurst: "From the want of a Scientific person to plan and Superintend the Construction of all Government Public Buildings, most of them have hitherto been very badly planned, and still worse executed. A Man named Francis

Howard Greenway, who came out here a Convict in the Year 1814, and who was originally an Architect of some Eminence in England, having been strongly recommended to me by the late Governor Phillip, I have availed Myself of His Skill and Scientific Knowledge as a Civil Architect, and accordingly some time since employed him to Act in that Capacity, and as an Assistant to the Inspector of Public Works, for which he receives 3s. per diem from the Colonial Funds. . . A Church at Sydney, another at Windsor and a third at Liverpool (both of these last Towns becoming very populous) are very much wanted, and these I shall Contract for Immediately, paying the Expences of Erecting them out of Colonial Funds."¹

The building of St. Matthew's was not without hazards. The foundation stone was laid with due ceremony by Governor Macquarie on 11th October, 1817. That very night it was removed and the Spanish dollar placed beneath it stolen. Macquarie then re-laid the stone and the dollar, only to have it stolen a second time.

Tenders had been called in August, 1816; plans had been drawn up; bricks were made and materials supplied. Henry Kitchen, builder, was paid a total of £800 in the next two years for his work. But reports on the building's progress were disturbing, and finally Macquarie requested Greenway to investigate the situation. To Greenway's mind, his plan was being ruined by poor materials and bad workmanship. He condemned the structure and recommended its complete removal and a new beginning made. A committee appointed for the purpose also reported on the building and

¹ Historical Records of Australia, Vol. 9, p. 353, Despatch April 4, 1817.



The elevations and plan of St. Matthew's Church were drawn by W. Hardy Wilson, and are reproduced by permission of the National Library of Australia, Canberra.

reached the same conclusion. "The mortar is of very bad quality," they said, and it is chastening to find that unsuitable mortar, used in later years for patching and repairs, has again caused deterioration to the sandstock bricks used in the building. This time in 1965, £41,500 has been raised to restore the church and its bell-tower faithfully. The fund-raising campaign and the restoration was organised by the National Trust and the work was carried out by Irons and Hughes, builders, under the supervision of the N.S.W. Government Architect.

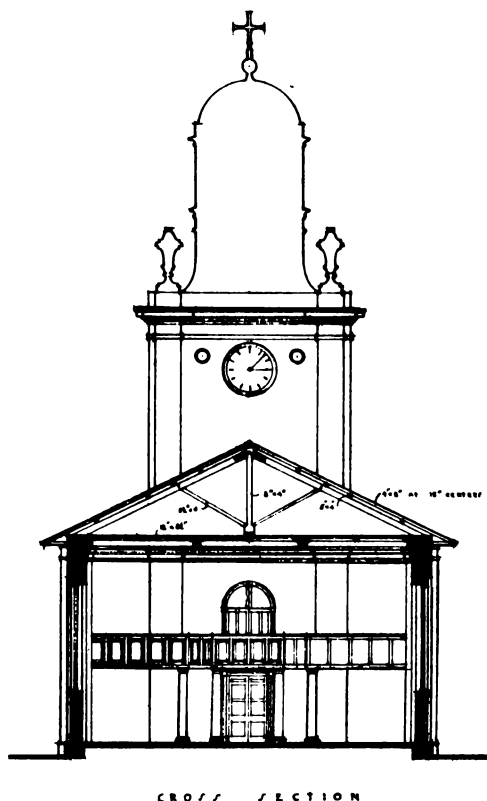
Governor Macquarie's prompt action in ordering the church to be pulled down and a fresh start made, must have spurred Greenway on to produce a new and grander design — his masterpiece in fact. With St. Matthew's, says Hardy Wilson, "he seems to have caught the sunlight of the Hawkesbury Valley on his glowing westward wall." For this reason, no black-and-white picture of this remarkable building can do it justice. Seen from the west on a sunny afternoon, it appears to ride on the Windsor ridge with a glow of gold-red colour above its retinue of old gravestones and green fields.

Samuel Marsden, principal chaplain of the colony, consecrated the church on December 8th, 1822, and the Hawkesbury settlers attended the service in large

numbers. In 1824, the *Sydney Gazette* carried the notice: "Persons, desirous of renting Pews or Seats in this Church, are desired to make Application to the Chaplain in writing."¹ These high-backed family pews were cut down and the doors removed later in the nineteenth century when the present wooden ceiling was put in. For the early services, the music was provided by the military bands of the regiments currently stationed at Windsor.

The roofing of St. Matthew's has been restored several times, as the original shingles, though lending a richness of texture to the roof, deteriorated fairly quickly. The roof was finally replaced in copper in 1958. The porch was added to the southern side of the church in 1857, temporarily obscuring Macquarie's large commemorative stone, which was later rediscovered and placed on the outer wall of the porch. Inside the porch, there is an old Bible, which, together with the clock in the tower and the church bell, is said to be the gift of George IV to the congregation of St. Matthew's.

The graveyard is older than the church, and has many tombstones commemorating the early settlers of Windsor. The oldest tombstone (1810) belongs to Andrew Thompson.



¹ *Sydney Gazette*, January 8, 1824.



*Photo: Max Dupain
by courtesy, National Trust*

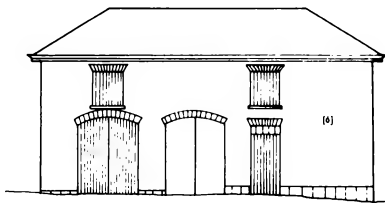
ST. MATTHEW'S, WINDSOR



St. Matthew's Rectory with the church in the background.



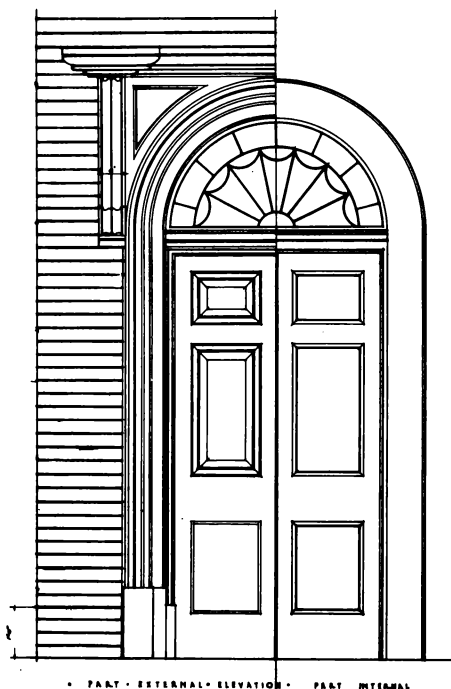
The stone commemorating the completion of St. Matthew's, now placed on the wall of the porch.



The stable behind the rectory.

St. Matthew's Rectory





ST. MATTHEW'S RECTORY

Moses Street, Windsor

In 1823 the *Sydney Gazette* carried a notice from the Engineer's Office in Sydney: "Tenders will be received up to the 1st Day of December, and Opened at Noon, on that Day, from Persons desirous of Contracting for the Building of a Parsonage House at Windsor, according to a Plan and Specification of the same which are to be seen at this Office."¹

The author of the plan of St. Matthew's Rectory is not known, but the builder whose tender was accepted was William Cox, pastoralist and enterprising citizen, the man who was responsible for the building of the first road across the Blue Mountains in 1814 with a team of twenty convicts and eight soldiers. He had also built the Court House at Windsor, and in 1825 he was paid 4,800 Spanish dollars for building the Rectory.²

This is a building which perfectly complements Greenway's St. Matthew's Church. It is a two-storey house in the tradition of the smaller eighteenth century English Georgian country house, which had evolved from the revival of the classical style with its discipline of proportions based on the classical orders. It is an elegant house, symmetrical and orderly, with a central front door enhanced by an elaborate semi-circular fanlight and surmounted by a carved wooden cornice. St. Matthew's Rectory has an unusual feature for a brick domestic Georgian building in Australia in its central front pediment which breaks the simple line of the hipped roof.

The small sandstock bricks used are ruddy in colour, like those of the church, with a subtle variation in shade in the red rubbing-bricks used to form flat arches above the large, well-proportioned 24-paned sash windows. Stone is used for narrow string courses and for flagging at the front porch.

Inside, the joinery and fireplaces are cedar, and the windows have interior folding shutters. The staircase, another elegant detail, curves up the semi-circular wall at the end of the hall.

A few years after the Rectory was completed, the Rev. Docker, clergyman at St. Matthew's, opened a small school there for local boys. In 1833 the Rev. Henry T. Stiles became the incumbent — "a true specimen of an English gentleman and clergy-

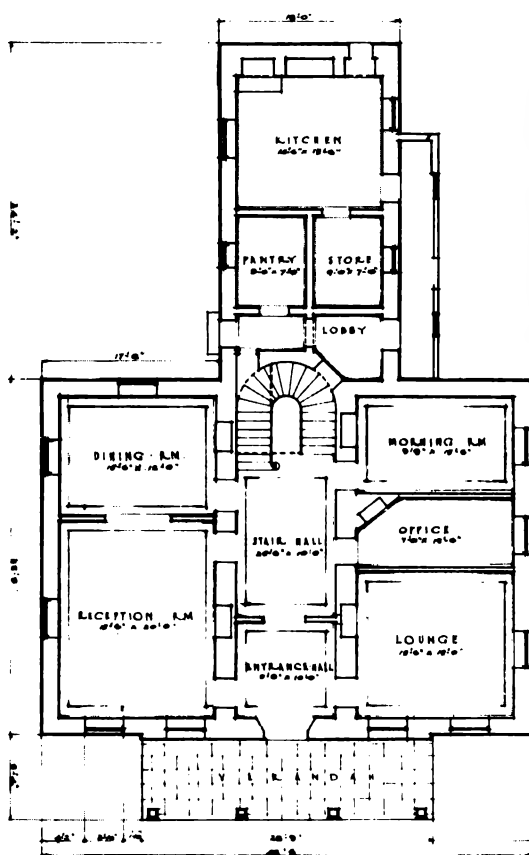
¹ *Sydney Gazette*, October 29, 1823.

² *Sydney Gazette*, October 3, 1825.



EAST ELEVATION

THE RECTORY WINDSOR - N.S.W



WEST ELEVATION

0 8 16 FT

DATE JULY 1931

DRAWN BY JOHN L. BROWN
MEASURED BY J. L. BROWN & G. ROBINSON

St. Matthew's Rectory, plan and elevations, drawn for the R.A.I.A. by John L. Brown, lodged in the Mitchell Library, and reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the Public Library of N.S.W.

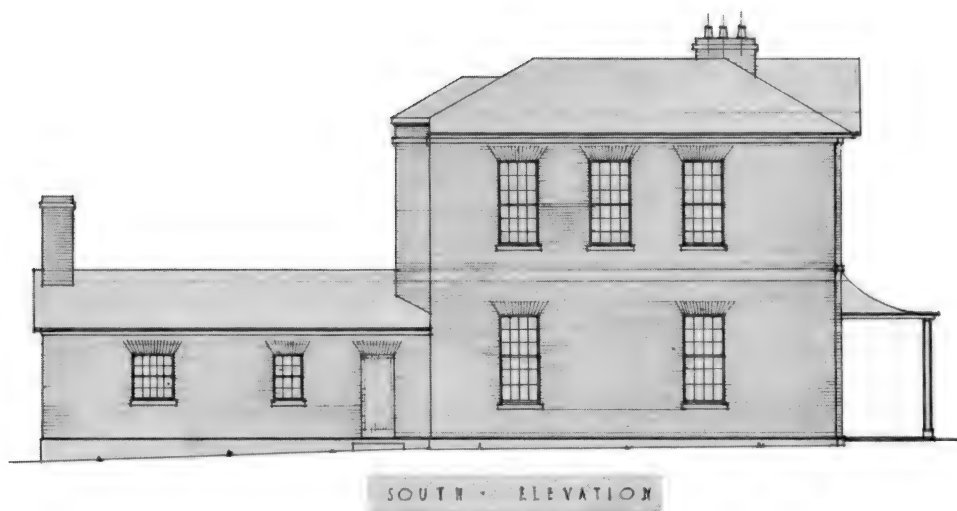
man. He was a quiet, unobtrusive man, of cultured habits — a beautiful reader, and though not brilliant, a pleasing preacher.”¹ In 1838, Samuel Marsden died at the Rectory while visiting the district.

St. Matthew’s and its Rectory were planned to be out of reach of the floodwaters which periodically swept down the Hawkesbury valley. In 1867, the year of the greatest flood recorded for the district, when the waters rose to 63 feet, the church was used as a refuge for many flood victims. The Rev. Stiles wrote in a letter to his son in 1864, another flood year when the water level reached 48 feet: “We have now one of the highest floods ever known in these districts, and the whole place, in consequence, is in distress, confusion and misery. . . . Rain set in on Friday last, continued all Saturday and, by Saturday night we had a flood. . . . It rose even into George Street, which for a time was rendered impassable on foot — so we were cut off from the other end of the town. The effects are very dreadful — especially in the destruction of the food of the people. Maize, hay, cattle, all in fact, that the farms on the low lands produced last year are gone — and the whole district nearly without food. . . . Many have nothing but the few clothes they escaped in. We have two families now in our laundry (besides those who occupied our own rooms).”²

Behind the Rectory there is an old two-storey brick stable. The Rectory itself has recently been renovated under the supervision of Mr. E. H. Farmer, the N.S.W. Government Architect, and it has been placed on the Register of Historic Buildings in recognition of its historical and architectural interest.

¹ William Walker, *Reminiscences*, 1890, p. 9.

² Stiles Papers, MS. in the Mitchell Library, Vol. I, p. 20.



THE MACQUARIE ARMS HOTEL

also known as the Royal Hotel
Thompson Square, Windsor

On July 15th, 1815, the *Sydney Gazette* carried the following public notice : "A large and commodious House having been some Time since erected, and lately completed, at a very considerable Expense, in the Town of Windsor, for an Inn; and a suitable Person having been engaged by the Proprietor for keeping the same, Notice is hereby given, that the said Inn, called "*The Macquarie Arms*", and kept by Thomas Ranson, who formerly was an Innkeeper in England, will be opened for the Accommodation of the Public on Monday the 31st of this present Month of July."

Two weeks later the same newspaper reported that the inn had been opened by Governor Macquarie. "His Excellency entertained at dinner the Magistrates and other principal Gentlemen residing at Windsor and in that neighbourhood. . . . Its necessity has been long manifest, as there was no house of public reception at Windsor capable of accommodating large and genteel companies; whereas the "*Macquarie Arms*", from its extent, plan of building, and adequate number of apartments, will be doubtless found worthy of the most liberal patronage and support."¹

This event was the direct result of Governor Macquarie's tour to the district in 1811. He wrote in his diary : "I walked over the whole of the present village on the Green Hills, forming the beginning or basis of the town of Windsor, in which I planned a square and several streets; directing the old ones to be enlarged and improved in various respects, and at [the] same time marking out several new allotments in the town for building new houses according to a prescribed plan not to be deviated from. I gave Mr. Fitzgerald a large allotment in the square on the express condition of his building immediately thereon a handsome commodious inn of brick or stone and to be at least two stories high. . . . The square in the present town I have named Thompson Square in honor of the memory of the good and worthy late Andrew Thompson Esqr Justice of Peace & Principal Magistrate for this district, and who may justly be said to be the father and founder of the village hitherto known by the name of the Green Hills; there being hardly a vestige of a single building here, excepting the Government Granary, when he first came to reside on the Green Hills ten years ago. I had a post erected this afternoon in Thompson Square, having a board nailed thereon with the name painted on it in large characters."²

Richard Fitzgerald, who duly built this handsome commodious inn on the allotment given him by Macquarie, had arrived in New South Wales in 1791 as a convict, as had Andrew Thompson whose name is remembered in Thompson Square. Fitzgerald was an industrious young man, and in 1800 Governor Hunter made him superintendent of agriculture at Toongabbie. He had proved himself a good farmer with

¹ *Sydney Gazette*, July 29, 1815.

² *Lachlan Macquarie, Journals of His Tours*, (Public Library of N.S.W., 1956), pp. 42-43, Jan. 12, 1811.

The Macquarie Arms, an etching by Lionel Lindsay made about 1916 when it was called the Royal Hotel. Reproduced by permission.



The hotel in 1965



the cultivation of his 1794 grant of 190 acres. Governor King confirmed this appointment in 1802: "Whereas from the increase of convicts sent to this colony, and it having been necessary to commence another agricultural settlement at Castle Hill for the employment of the convicts at public labour . . . and as the public benefit requires that there should be a Principal Superintendant to inspect into the public cultivation carried on at the different settlements, — I have judged it proper to appoint Mr. Richard Fitzgerald, superintendant to that trust, to whom you will pay an additional £50.7 per annum out of such monies or stores as you may have in your charge belonging to the Crown."¹

In 1810 Governor Macquarie appointed Fitzgerald Government Storekeeper for the same salary. At various times until 1820 he was reimbursed by the administration for certain services. He was paid £250.11.7½ on 11th March, 1820, for materials supplied for the new church at Windsor and for the convict establishment at Emu Plains (near Penrith);² £30 for rent of a house at Windsor for the accommodation of convicts, and £50.7.0 for sundry disbursements made on behalf of the government.³

Commissioner Bigge reported at length on Fitzgerald's activities. "It was highly creditable to his industry and to his integrity, that he has, since the arrival of Governor Macquarie, not only enjoyed his confidence and friendship, but has held the situation of storekeeper, and clerk in charge, in the Commissariat Department at Windsor. His former acquaintance with the nature and details of convict labour, and the high opinion entertained of him by Governor Macquarie no doubt were reasons for his appointment to the superintendence of the establishment at Emu Plains." But then Mr. Bigge continued sternly: "It is however, to be observed, as well as to be regretted, that at the period of this appointment Mr. Fitzgerald was pursuing several other occupations that positively and indirectly interfered with his duties . . . he acted as storekeeper at Windsor . . . he is a proprietor of land and stock in the neighbourhood and keeps an Inn and spirit shop in the town of Windsor called the Macquarie Arms."⁴

Though Commissioner Bigge disapproved of him, and the builder Henry Kitchen, called as a witness by Bigge, accused both Fitzgerald and Richard Rouse with "malversion of labour, materials and stores", and grumbled about "the plain simple notorious fact that to be concerned in the conducting of the Public Works of this Colony is the same thing as to be raised from indigence to opulence",⁵ Kitchen's evidence was not always reliable, and John Macarthur supported Fitzgerald, who had at one time acted as his agent, commending "his remarkable activity, regular conduct and honesty" in evidence to Bigge.⁶ At this time Fitzgerald supervised 523 convicts at Windsor and Emu Plains.

Macquarie stoutly defended Fitzgerald. He stated angrily in his 1828 Report to Bathurst: "If Commissioner Bigge had felt any wish to distinguish a man who has with much fidelity served the Government for twenty-seven years, he had a fair opportunity, which he not only neglected, but misused, by the manner in which he had noticed Mr. Fitzgerald, whom I consider to be as honest and useful a man as

¹ Historical Records of N.S.W., Vol. 4, p. 819, King to Palmer, Aug. 11, 1802.

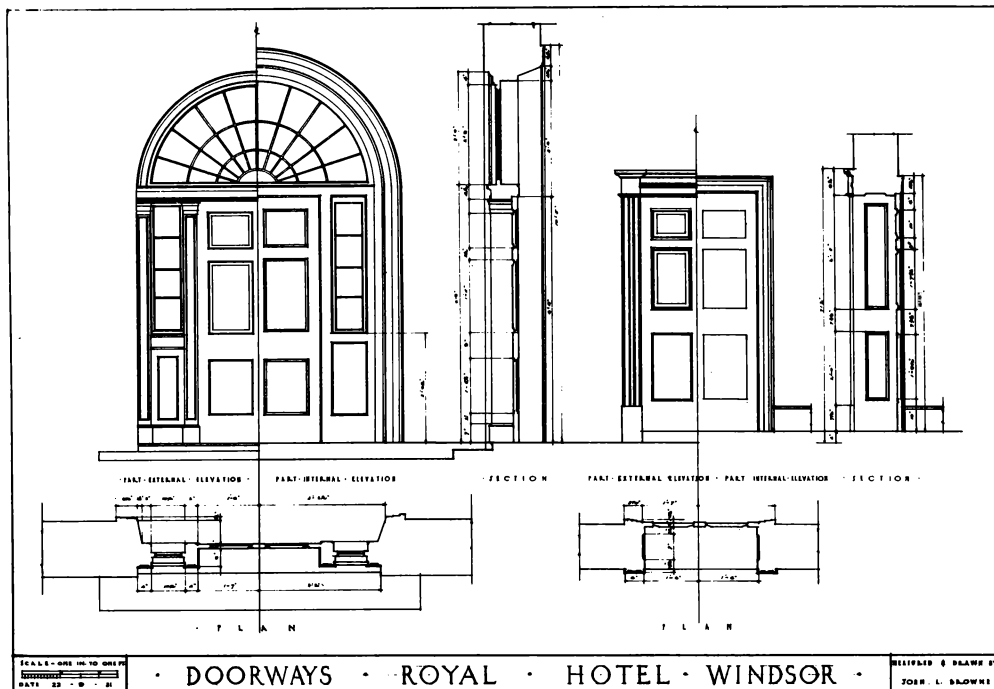
² Bigge Appendix, B.T. Box 21, p. 4030.

³ Wentworth Papers, Police Reports and Accounts, 1810-1827, p. 154, p. 213.

⁴ J. T. Bigge, *Report of the Commissioner of Inquiry into the State of the Colony of N.S.W.*, p. 41.

⁵ Bigge Appendix, B.T. Box 26, p. 5944.

⁶ Bigge Appendix, B.T. Box 1, p. 222.



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any in New South Wales. It was at my particular request that Mr. Fitzgerald built the new Inn at Windsor, in order to provide accommodation for the superior classes of persons visiting that town; and also with the view of relieving himself from the expense of entertaining gratuitously the civil and military officers at his own house, which it was his custom to do after the death of Mr. Thompson, who, I understand had acted to all respectable strangers visiting the place in his time in the same hospitable and liberal manner. Mr. Fitzgerald never kept the inn alluded to himself; he let it to another person, who rented the house and offices. He ceased to be the storekeeper at Windsor before the commencement of the agricultural establishment at *Emu Plains*, and previously to his having been appointed the Superintendent thereof.”¹

Fitzgerald appears to have retired from public office in the 1820s. The 1828 census lists him as the possessor of 2000 acres of land, and in conjunction with his farming pursuits, he remained active in local affairs and was elected president of the Hawkesbury Benevolent Society which managed the hospital at Windsor, and when he died in 1840 he endowed it with an annuity of £50.

Richard Fitzgerald and his family lived in a house alongside The Macquarie Arms in George Street, Windsor. His son Robert married Elizabeth Rouse of Rouse Hill in 1841, and in 1843 stood for the first partly elected parliament in New South Wales against William Bowman of Richmond. He was defeated by only one vote after a heated campaign. He was, however, appointed a member of the Legislative Council in 1849. He became a large land-holder, with properties in the central west of N.S.W. and in Queensland.

Return, Extract of a Letter from Macquarie to Bathurst, Oct., 1823, p. 29, published 1828.



Portion of a map of Windsor made by J. Armstrong, Surveyor, for land subdivision in 1842 (in the Mitchell Library).

The Macquarie Arms was occupied in the late 1830s by army officers stationed at Windsor, and it became known as the Mess House. In Armstrong's map of the town (1842) it is designated by this name. It was again run as a hotel by the Bushell family from 1872 until 1900, and has continued in this use to the present day.

The early character of the architecture of The Macquarie Arms was somewhat belied about thirty years ago by the addition of box-like protruberances to the corners of the building. The upstairs verandah has also been added and some upstairs windows replaced by french doors. Most of the attic windows in the roof were also added then. Lionel Lindsay's drawing (p. 15) shows it without these, as it must have looked originally. The building's first name has recently been reinstated, and, despite the alterations, it still possesses a great deal of its former atmosphere.

It remains a building of generous proportions, with sandstock brick walls, stuccoed over and painted white. It has two large Georgian doorways with semi-circular traceried fanlights and sidelights, but the glass in the one facing George Street has unfortunately been painted over. The one opening on to Thompson Square can still be seen in its original state. The hotel retains its well-designed cedar joinery, its cedar circular staircase, its extensive stone-flagged cellars, its turned wooden verandah columns, and its stone-flagging. Its central position in Windsor and its early date and interesting associations make The Macquarie Arms a colonial building of some importance.



The settlement on the Green Hills, 1809, possibly by G. W. Evans, in the Mitchell Library. Reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the Public Library of N.S.W.



Photo: N.S.W. Government Printer

Thompson Square, Windsor, in 1879.

Showing the Doctor's House and the Macquarie Arms Hotel (then named the Royal Hotel) on the right; also still standing are the cottage and the two-storey house on the left, and portion of the building on the corner of Bridge Street at the head of the Square. This photograph and the above drawing were made from approximately the same position.

THE DOCTOR'S HOUSE

*also known as The Terrace
Thompson Square, Windsor*



In 1819, James Doyle leased a dwelling and tenement known as the Freemason's Arms on the site of the Doctor's House from Charles Beasley. The 1828 Census lists Doyle as an innkeeper at Windsor, and states that he arrived in the colony in 1803 as a convict and had been granted a conditional pardon. In 1830 Doyle was licensed to sell wine at the house known by the Sign of the Lord Nelson at Windsor Terrace.

Doyle must have prospered at Windsor, for he gave liberally to his church (some £500 to the Roman Catholic Chapel at Hyde Park, and, it is said, £100 to his local church),¹ and to the Benevolent Society. In 1830, *The Australian* newspaper remarked: "Mr. James Doyle, Windsor, [is] entertaining travellers at the Sign of the Lord Nelson, and his utility and hospitality in his line are of too good fame throughout the Colony to require comment; this Inn is delightfully situated on the banks of the Hawkesbury, near to the spot Governor Macquarie designed for a Terrace."² In 1831 Joseph Delandre is listed as the Licensee of The Lord Nelson, Thompson Square; by 1835 Delandre had moved to the St. Patrick's Inn in George Street.

James Doyle died in 1836, and was "thought to have died possessed of considerable wealth".¹ He left his house and premises in Windsor to his sister, Mrs. Bridget Canton, who had come from England to join him in New South Wales in 1828. In 1837 Edward Coffey issued the following notice: "Daniel O'Connell Hotel, Windsor. The Undersigned begs leave to inform the Gentry and Public generally that he has opened the above Establishment adjoining the King's Wharf, in those spacious premises formerly occupied by the late James Doyle Esq., which for salubrity of situation cannot be surpassed, commanding a full view of the Hawkesbury River, the fertile plains of Wilberforce, and the surrounding country. The House has been fitted up in the very best style, and [is] fit for the reception of the most respectable visitors, who will be treated with the utmost attention. The Cellars are well stored . . . and the Stabling commodious, with an attentive Ostler. . . ."³

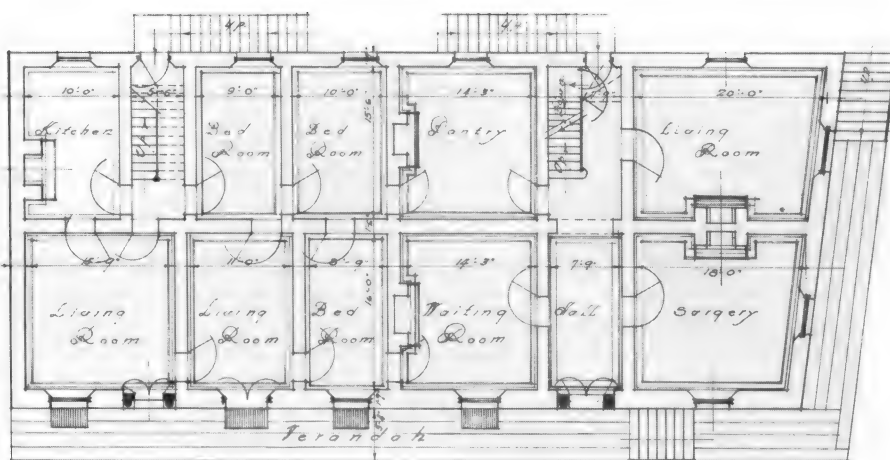
¹ *Sydney Gazette*, April 12, 1836.

² *The Australian*, July 9, 1830.

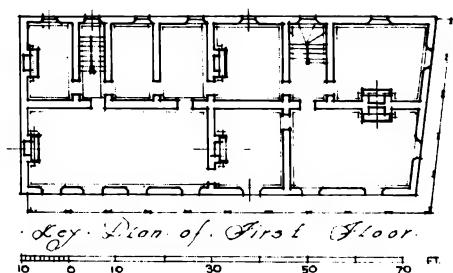
³ *The Australian*, July 21, 1837.



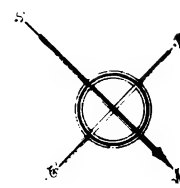
Elevation on to Thompson Quay



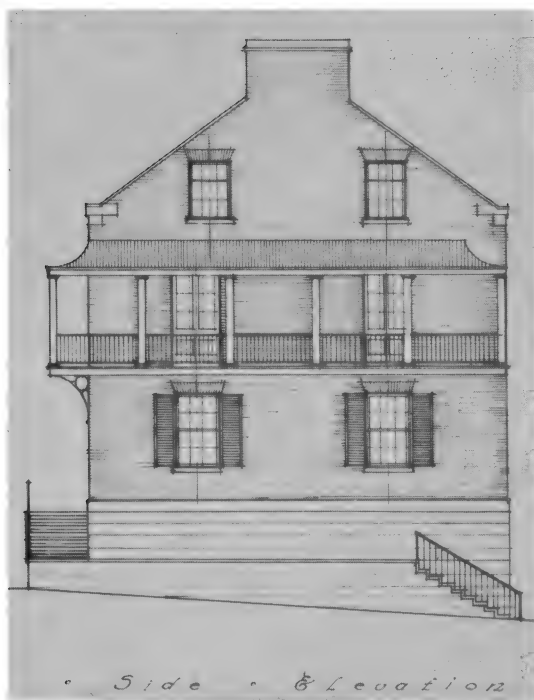
Ground Floor Plan



Key Plan of First Floor



The Doctor's House, elevations and plans, drawn for the R.A.I.A. by Allan G. Robertson, and lodged in the Mitchell Library, reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the Public Library of N.S.W. The rooms are designated by their uses when the drawings were made in the 1930's.



This notice appears to refer to a substantial building, but it has not been established if the present Doctor's House does in fact date back to this period, though the building is certainly colonial in style. It may have been rebuilt later, in the 1840s. To confuse matters, Edward Coffey, the manager of the Daniel O'Connell Hotel (Doyle's premises), was also associated with the Museum building in Thompson Square, which was also an inn at that time.

In the early days, an inn was the centre of many varieties of social activities and public matters — meetings, balls, and auction sales amongst them. In 1841, a mob of 50 or 60 head of cattle running at the Namoi River was offered for sale at Mr. Coffey's Daniel O'Connell Inn at Windsor.¹ The settlers were pushing further and further away from Sydney in their quest for new pastures for stock.

In the early 1840s it may be possible that Mrs. Canton's building was leased, as was the Macquarie Arms at the top of the Square,

as quarters for the officers of the Regiments stationed at Windsor. As early as 1797 a military detachment was stationed there, and the soldiers assisted in harvesting the crops, as well as in maintaining order and supervising the convicts. Many of them settled in the district after their military service was completed. In 1835 109 army men, including 14 officers, were resident in Windsor; by 1839, there were 165 soldiers in the town. Windsor remained a military centre until after 1844 when the cessation of convict transportation allowed their withdrawal. The military and the bulk of the convicts were quartered in the Government Domain bordering Thompson Square to the north. If officers could not be accommodated in the army buildings they were given an allowance of £50 to £100 per year for lodgings.²

Mrs. Canton died in 1846 and left her house and premises in Thompson Square to her grandson, B. J. W. Burke. In 1853 the property was mortgaged to Edmund Burke, Rev. John McEncroe and Nicholas Coffey, in return for an annuity. In 1858, after the death of Nicholas Coffey, Edmund Burke arranged for the sale of the property to George Holden.

In the *Windsor Review* of 1857³ an advertisement states: "To let at Windsor, a first-class two-storied House of Seven spacious Rooms, with Attics, Balcony, and, underneath, Cellars and Kitchen at Thompson's Square, Windsor, one of the best situations in Town, overlooking the Hawkesbury River and Wilberforce District.

¹ *The Australian*, Jan. 26, 1841.

² Colonial Secretary's In-Letters, Feb. 12, 1839. Naval and Military. MS. in the Mitchell Library. Rates of Lodging Allowances were fixed on Feb. 25, 1831.

³ *Windsor Review*, July 1, 1857.

The Premises were formerly known as 'Caffey's Hotel', and are well adapted for a First-rate Family Hotel. Immediate Possession given. Rent moderate."² This may refer to one half of the building, nearest the river.

Other records show that from 1871 to 1886 Mrs. Margaret Betts was rated for a property in Thompson Square, and from 1877 to 1883 Dr. Thomas Fiaschi, owner of the now vanished Tizzana vineyards near Sackville with its fine old stone ruin bearing the date 1887, lived next door to Mrs. Betts, paying identical rates. This indicates a semi-detached house, or terrace, and may apply to the Doctor's House (see photo, 1879, p. 24).

In 1868 B. J. W. Burke mortgaged the building to Jessie Strathdee. It was sold by Francis Jenkins to William Moses in 1881, and he in turn sold it to Dr. John Gibson in 1903, who then leased part of it to Dr. Callaghan. In 1934 J. J. Paine sold the house to Dr. G. P. Arnold. Dr. W. J. Skinner bought part of it in 1956, and the building now blossoms again after careful restoration. There are three private dwellings in the building, and it is not open to public inspection. It can however be clearly seen from the square as it abuts the footpath in a truly urban fashion. Mrs. Skinner has opened an old wares shop downstairs.

The Doctor's House stands up proudly on the banks of the Hawkesbury, a sentinel of the town, undeterred by the flood waters which have at times risen almost as high as the upstairs balcony. Its red bricks are small and ruddy and mellow with age, its details — doorways, windows and balcony — are finely finished and graceful in design. The fanlights above the two main doorways are particularly elegant examples of traceried fanlights, and there are attached columns on each side of the doors. To the traveller from the west this building announces that here, unmistakably, is a Macquarie Town.

Thompson Square is unique in that all the buildings around it still retain much of their earlier quality, and could still, with practical adaptation as exercised so successfully in the Doctor's House, be restored to make the square one of the most interesting colonial squares in Australia. The Museum has recently been renovated, and the Doctor's House has been added to the Register of Historic Buildings.





Thompson Square, 1965



Photo: N.S.W. Government Printer

Thompson Square, 1879, showing the Museum building and the Doctor's House.

THE HAWKESBURY MUSEUM

No. 5 Thompson Square



Next to the Macquarie Arms in Thompson Square there is another colonial building which now contains the Hawkesbury Museum and its mementoes of the district's early days. This building is shown in the 1879 photograph opposite as it looked originally, with a shingled roof and a verandah on the ground floor only. The present upstairs verandah, shown in the photograph above, with the cast iron balustrading, is a later addition, and has changed the appearance of the building.

The land on which it stands was part of a grant of 30 acres to William Baker in 1800. This site was then given as a town allotment to John Howe in 1811, and he lived there for thirty years. John Howe had migrated in 1802 and settled first at Ebenezer. He became Andrew Thompson's manager in 1809, and was the Chief Constable at Windsor from 1813 to 1825, and also the local auctioneer and appraiser. He supervised the building of Howe's Bridge over South Creek in 1813, and ran a punt service across the Hawkesbury River. He led a party of Windsor men on two exploring expeditions northwards along the route now taken by the Putty Road to Patrick's Plains and the site of Maitland in 1818 and 1820, and was the first man to be given a permit to graze stock there with the promise of a later grant.¹ From that time many Windsor settlers took up land in the Hunter Valley, even venturing with their herds of cattle as far as three hundred miles to the north-west by 1827. In 1838 John Howe had a licence to depasture stock as far away as the Liverpool Plains.

A building on Howe's allotment in Thompson Square is marked as an Inn in a map of Windsor made in 1841;² in the Armstrong Map (p. 18) it is designated Coffey's Inn. Edward Coffey is also associated with the site of the Doctor's House nearby, so he may have run both places as hostelries. The present Museum building is claimed to have been built, as an Inn, about 1843.

In 1876 John Howe's son sold the building to George Davies, Printer. There Davies published *The Australian*, a lively weekly newspaper, until the 1890s. The building was sold to Mr. E. A. Stevens in 1961, and the museum it houses is open from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at weekends.

¹ T. M. Perry, *Australia's First Frontier*, p. 63, refers to Howe's Journal.

² Lands Department Map, W433A.

THE WINDSOR COURT HOUSE

Court Street

'It being the Intention of His Excellency Governor Macquarie to erect a new Court House at Windsor, such Person or Persons disposed to build the same by Contract, are requested to send in sealed Tenders to the Chief Engineer's Office, in His Majesty's Lumber-yard, on or before 15th May next. The Plan of the Court House, with the Specifications, may be seen at the Office.

*By Command of His Excellency the Governor,
George Druitt, Major 48th, Chief Engineer. ¹*

The plan and specifications for the Court House had been prepared by Francis Greenway, architect to the Governor. The plan is an appropriately simple one. In this building, Greenway achieved a synthesis between the Georgian style and the architectural elements which evolved from a response to the demands of an Australian climate. The main room, the Court Room, is flanked front and back by stone-flagged verandahs which form an essential part of the plain rectangular structure, and provide access to the ancillary rooms. The simplicity of the design and the agreeable quality of the materials used — hand-made sandstock bricks on a sandstone foundation — lend the building a dignity befitting its function. The windows and doorways have incised stone lintels and stone sills, and the recessed panels in the brickwork, echoed below in the stone foundation, give weight to the corners of the structure.

In 1821 William Cox signed the contract, and agreed to build the Court House within fifteen months from October of that year for a sum of £1,800, under Greenway's supervision, and "in a good efficient substantial and workmanlike manner".² Convicts provided the labour.

This Court House now ranks as Greenway's best preserved building. The Building and Maintenance Branch of the N.S.W. Department of Public Works carried out restoration work in 1961 in a manner which can only be described as superb. This was done under the direction of the Government Architect on behalf of the N.S.W. Department of Justice. The building had been mutilated many years before by cement render, and this was all carefully removed and the bricks cleaned or turned so that their pristine surface was again exposed. Now the building stands very much as it must have looked when it was first erected in the 1820s, and to see it is to realise that the simplicity of fine Georgian architecture is a heritage which we are fortunate to possess, even in small measure, in the few good colonial buildings which have survived.

The interior, too, survives unspoilt, with its white walls and the richness of the cedar panelling and doors. The panelling behind the magistrate's chair is embellished by a gilded coat of arms, and the portrait of Governor Macquarie looks across towards a wooden gallery on the north wall. Natural light enters the Court Room through high clerestory windows.

¹ *Sydney Gazette*, April 29, 1820.

² Colonial Secretary, In-Letters, Bundle 15, No. 50-81, 1821.



The Windsor Court House, 1965



Photo: N.S.W. Government Printer

The Windsor Court House, 1879

The portrait above the Bench representing the Governor was subscribed to by the local people, who requested him to sit for a portrait to be put up in this new Court House when he returned to England. Macquarie, gratified, consented with pleasure, but it has been disputed whether this portrait is in fact of Macquarie, as the figure in the red coat and gold braid does not appear to be a good likeness. The painting nevertheless remains as a symbol of the settlers' gratitude to the Governor who did so much for the struggling colony.

William Cox not only built the Court House, but also served there as a magistrate in company with Lieut. Archibald Bell and Captain John Brabyn. A number of local settlers formed a Grand Jury which was associated with the magistrates, and in 1826 its members, including Richard Rouse, Henry Cox and George Bowman, petitioned for better facilities at the Court House and for additions and repairs to the local gaol which was located alongside the Court House, between it and Bridge Street.

On 10th August, 1829, the first Circuit Court was opened in Windsor by Judge Stephen. Punishments were severe. A man was tried for housebreaking, and executed; another prisoner was sentenced to 75 lashes for stealing a few oranges.

In the nineteenth century the Court House was used for a diverse range of activities as well as for dispensing justice. It was lent for church services, public meetings, concerts, entertainments, and election campaigns. It was a public building used intensively by the people of the Windsor district, not just occasionally for a specialised activity as it is today. In 1843 the Windsor people strongly resisted the suggestion that the Court of Quarter Sessions should be removed to Parramatta and the gaol closed, on the grounds that it would be a great loss to the district.

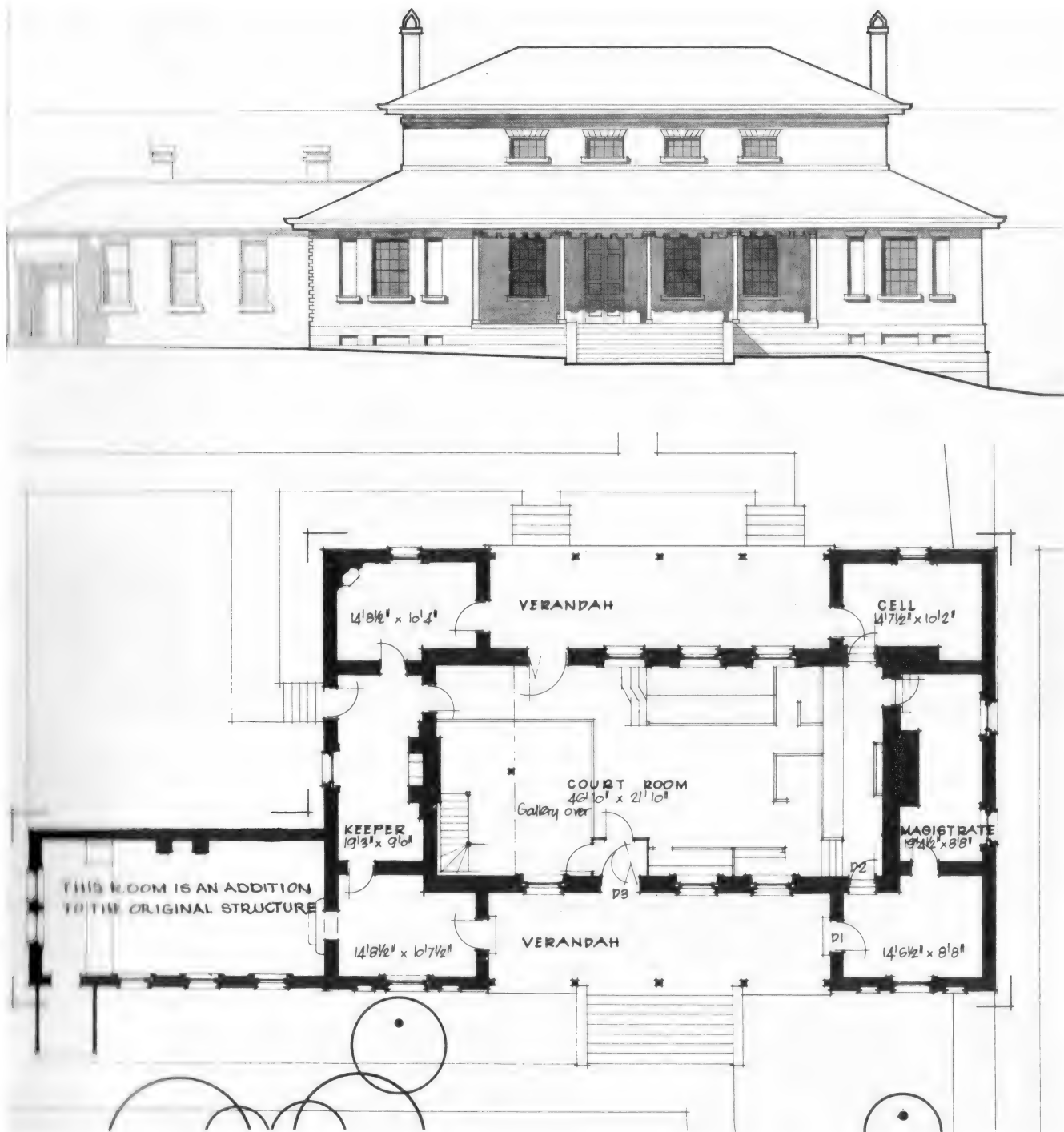
At an unruly public meeting held in the Court House in 1858 to discuss the formation of a Municipal Council for Windsor, the speakers were bombarded with eggs. William Walker, who chaired the meeting, comments in his *Reminiscences*: "I don't think they struck anyone, but lodged their contents on the valuable and historical picture of Governor Macquarie and the Court House wall behind the Bench." The municipal council was finally established in 1871.

In 1875, a year of great bush-fires, the *Illustrated Sydney News* reported that "the town of Windsor was in flames", and that "most of the townspeople were present in the Windsor Court House listening to the addresses of the nominated candidates for Parliament when the intelligence reached them". This fire burnt out a town block south of Fitzgerald Street between George and Macquarie Streets, and the buildings destroyed included the Methodist Church, which was rebuilt the next year.

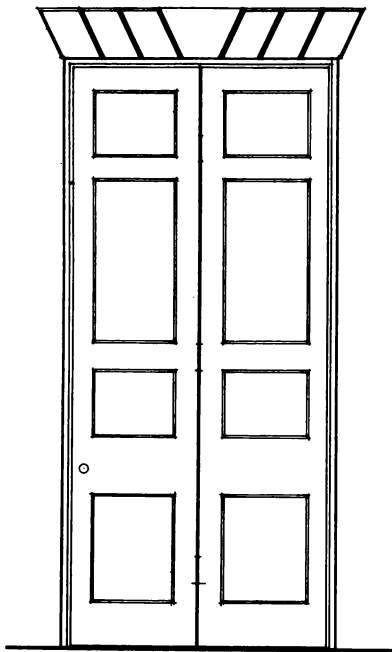
The Windsor Court House has been placed on the Register of Historic Buildings. It is open to the public on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays at 11.00-12.00 a.m. and 2.30-3.30 p.m.



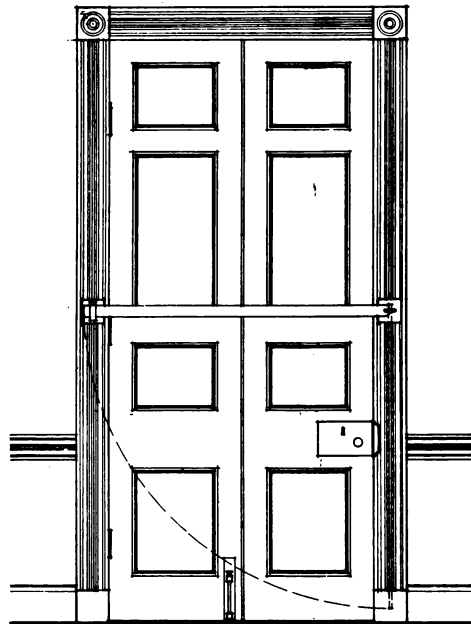
Early Windsor cottages opposite the Court House in North Street.



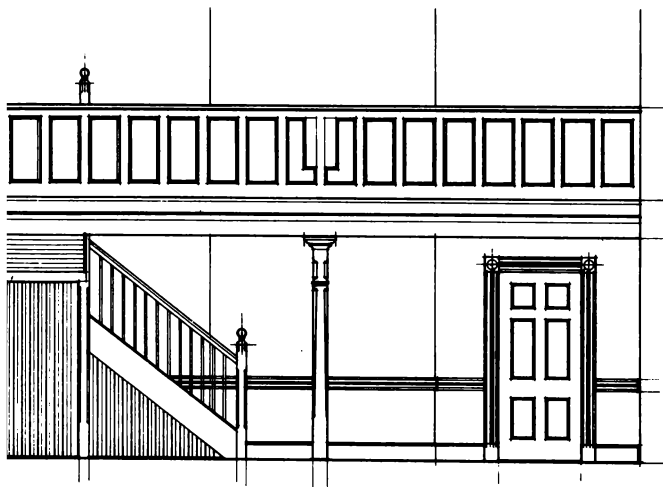
The plan, elevation, and details of the Windsor Court House were measured and drawn by P. Atkin, A. McNamara and L. Trevena, students of the School of Architecture and Building, University of N.S.W., and supplied by arrangement with the State Planning Authority.



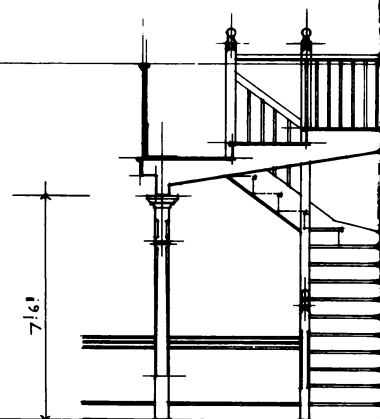
ELEVATIONS - EXTERNAL



INTERNAL



ELEVATION OF GALLERY IN COURTROOM

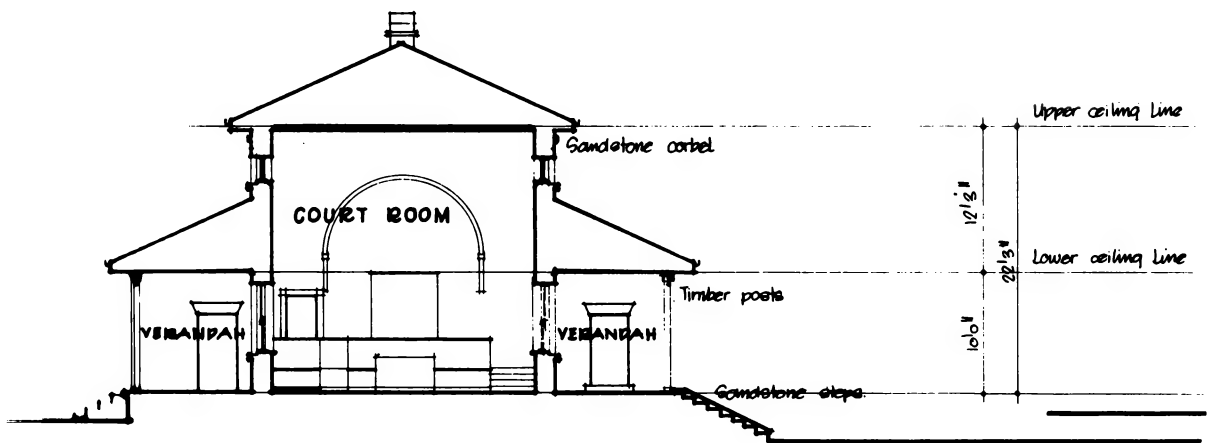


SECTION



WINDSOR COURT HOUSE, interior.

Photo: Max Dupain



CROSS SECTION
Looking West



THE TOLL HOUSE

Bridge Street, Windsor

In a colony with scanty public funds, the building of roads was a difficult undertaking, even though convicts were available to provide the labour. As a means of financing

the road-making, Governor Macquarie introduced a system of tolls, and, in theory, those who used the roads contributed to their maintenance. Toll-bars were erected and toll houses built for the toll-collectors. By 1836 the Windsor Toll Gate was one of six in the colony.

In 1813 Richard Rouse was paid four hundred pounds for the erection of two toll houses and toll gates on the Turnpike Road between Parramatta and Windsor.¹ Andrew Thompson had been granted the lease of the tolls over South Creek at Windsor as he had constructed the floating bridge there in 1802. When this lease had expired by 1820, a notice was issued stating the rates to be paid by wagons, carriages, and stock crossing the bridge.² One penny was charged for each head of cattle, sixpence for a score of sheep or swine, threepence for a cart with one horse, eightpence for a wagon with two horses or bullocks, and a shilling for a four-wheeled carriage with two horses.

Though the Toll House at Windsor is a reminder of the old roadways, it does not date back as far as the Macquarie era. It was built about 1835.³ The South Creek bridge was replaced in 1838, and the building is shown on the 1842 map of Windsor (page 19). Tolls were collected here up till 1887.⁴ The Toll House is situated near the bridge leading in to Windsor from the Sydney road, but its site is subject to flooding, and it now stands empty and neglected. It is a small, neat, symmetrical brick building, stuccoed, with a central three-sided bay from which the road could be easily observed. Two windows flanking the central bay are set in recessed arches. There are three rooms, each with a fireplace, and a small stone-flagged verandah at the rear.

Tolls and ferries were let annually to agents by public auction. At Windsor, in 1840, the upset price was £220, and the right to collect tolls was leased to Laban White, a local man. When the system was first begun, the collection of tolls was difficult as there was much evasion, the offenders often being eminent citizens like the Rev. Samuel Marsden and Jeffrey Hart Bent, the first judge of the New South Wales Supreme Court.

The toll system was gradually extended as the colony expanded, and all main roads in New South Wales became toll-roads. In the 1870s it was found that as only a small proportion of the cost of building and maintaining the roads could be covered by the collection of tolls, it would be more efficient to abolish the tolls and pay for the roads directly from public funds. The toll system has been re-introduced in recent years on some bridges, the Sydney Harbour Bridge being the best known example.

¹ Wentworth Papers, Treasury Orders &c, 1812-25, p. 49.

² *Sydney Gazette*, August 19, 1820.

³ Memo from Sir Richard Bourke to the Surveyor-General, May 5, 1835. MS. A292, p. 185, in the Mitchell Library. The Toll House may well have been designed by Mortimer Lewis, who was Colonial Architect at that time.

⁴ James Steele, *Early Days of Windsor*, pp. 180-183.

THE PENINSULAR HOUSE

Livingstone Street, Windsor

The astronomer John Tebbutt was born (1834) and educated at Windsor. Describing the site of his observations, he wrote: "At the Eastern extremity of the municipal town of Windsor, lies the Peninsular Estate, a tract containing about 250 acres of rich alluvial land. It is so called because it is nearly surrounded by the courses of the Hawkesbury River and its tributary the South Creek at their confluence. On the hill situated a little south west of the middle of the Estate and whose summit is 40 ft. above the local mean tidal level stands the residence of the author with the two Observatories."¹

Years before, on this Peninsula, regiments of the army stationed at Windsor had occasionally conducted reviews of troops before the Lt-General, Sir Maurice O'Connell.

John Tebbutt's grandfather had arrived as a free migrant in 1801, and became a farmer and storekeeper at Windsor. He leased a farm from the Rev. Samuel Marsden on land between Macquarie Street and South Creek. In 1842 his son acquired land on the Peninsula, and built the Peninsular House in 1845.² It is a two-storey rectangular house in the colonial style, built of sandstock bricks, with a slate roof and a stone-flagged verandah on three sides. A two-storey wing has been added at the rear. The windows were shuttered, with stone sills and twelve small panes of glass. The house is still owned by the Tebbutt family, but has been subdivided and is now leased as flats.

In 1864 John Tebbutt erected a small, round observatory in the garden, and in 1879 he built a larger observatory close to the old one. From here he observed various astronomical phenomena — lunar occultations of stars, Jupiter's satellites, comets, minor planets, double stars, transits of Mercury and Venus — and his work won international acknowledgment. He wrote: "Our Windsor sky is, I think, one of the best for astronomical observation . . ."³ The main observatory building, erected in 1879, is a neat brick structure with whitewashed stone quoins.



The Peninsular House.



The Observatory.

¹ John Tebbutt, *Mr. Tebbutt's Observatory*, p. 5.

² John Tebbutt, *Astronomical Memoirs*, p. 10.

³ Letter, J. Tebbutt to W. J. McDonnell, May 6, 1880.

CLAREMONT COTTAGE

Windsor

On the wall of the wide verandah of Claremont Cottage, a plaque gives a list of owners dating back to 1796. According to this plaque, the first farmer there was John Pugh, and he was followed in 1809 by John Jones. Then in 1822 William Cox appears as the owner, to be succeeded by his son Alfred Cox. Francis Beddeck, a solicitor who married Elizabeth Blachford, sister of Mrs. William Cox, lived there from 1828, and finally acquired the property in 1850, two years before he died. From then on Claremont changed hands fairly rapidly, belonging in turn to James Dawson and John Thompson (1853), Timothy Paul (1871), John Attewell (1876), James Chaseling (1880), Thomas Chaseling (1881), Ambrosine Isabella Ward (1906), Ruby Parish (1920) and Edward Thomas Cheeseman (1921). The property and its pioneering homestead now belongs to Mr. Philip Charley.



Though William Cox is listed as an owner of Claremont, it is doubtful that he ever lived in this house, as he had settled at Clarendon, a few miles west of Windsor, after he returned from England in 1807. (He had arrived first in Australia in 1800 as paymaster in the N.S.W. Corps.) Cox is best remembered for the 101 miles of road that he built across the Blue Mountains with the aid of twenty convicts and eight soldiers between 18th July, 1814 and 14th January, 1815. He also built houses and public buildings, he conducted minor explorations, he was appointed a magistrate by Governor Macquarie, and he ran a large and efficient estate at Clarendon¹ as well as controlling land at Mulgoa and Bathurst. In his day he was noted for his humanitarianism in his treatment of his convict servants. In the 1830s he moved to Fairfield,² closer to Windsor, and died there in 1837, being survived by numerous progeny who also became enterprising pioneers.

¹ The main homestead at Clarendon no longer remains, but in Dight Street on the outskirts of Richmond opposite the north-western part of the airfield, the two-storied servants' quarters and the old brick stables are still in use. The servants' quarters are thought to have been built in 1821. (See photo, page 60.)

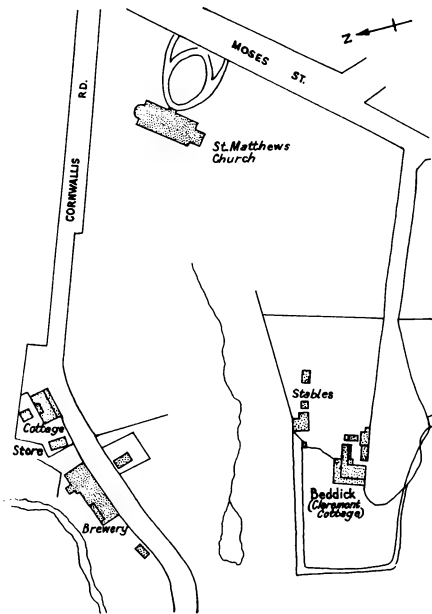
² The house Fairfield, now standing on this property and added to much later in the nineteenth century, is a splendid example of high Victoriana, with tiers of cast iron lace cascading gracefully down the exterior walls. (See page 39.)

By 1822, when William Cox became the owner of the farm Claremont, the nucleus of the present house stood on the land. A notice appeared in the *Sydney Gazette* on 27th December, 1822: "To be LET on Lease, for the term of 5 or 7 years, Part of the Estate late belonging to Mr. John Jones, near the new Church at Windsor, with the Buildings now upon it, which will be repaired and improved, containing, by estimation, about 40 Acres; the low land is now in Maize, and the whole is fenced in complete."

Francis Beddeck arrived in the colony in 1827. On October 22, 1828, the *Sydney Gazette* reported: "We understand that it is the intention of Mr. BEDDECK, Solicitor, of Parramatta, to settle in the populous and highly respectable neighbourhood of Windsor. We have often been surprised that a legal Gentleman has not hitherto resided in the latter town, the Hawkesbury gentry being rather fond of litigation, and well stored with the means to fee the lawyers. We are informed that Mr. BEDDECK will remove in the course of a month, and take up his residence at a pretty cottage called Claremont (the property of WILLIAM COX, Esq., Clarendon), near the Church in Windsor." In December, when Elizabeth Blachford married Francis Beddeck, Governor Darling gave her two square miles of land as a marriage portion.

Claremont Cottage, with its low eaves and wide verandahs opening out onto gently sloping green lawns, with its cellars and its rambling interior, the front rooms connected to the older rear kitchen section by a covered breezeway, is still a typical early homestead, perhaps especially typical because it has grown in size as the years passed, each section of the house being added on to and merging in with the original

structure. These additions have been made in a logical and sympathetic way, and so the house has kept its colonial atmosphere, and there beneath the shadow of St. Matthew's tower has gained an air of repose proper to its age and history.



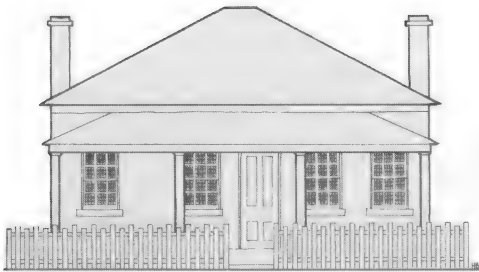
Part of the 1841 map of Windsor (in the Lands Dept.) showing Claremont when Francis Beddeck lived there.



OTHER EARLY WINDSOR BUILDINGS



The large foundation stone standing in the grounds of the Windsor District Hospital in Macquarie Street, was taken down from the wall of the hospital when it was enlarged and modernised in 1911. The verandah additions now hide the old building, which was originally a barrack for convict workmen erected in 1820. It was converted to a hospital for prisoners in 1823, and taken over by the Hawkesbury Benevolent Society in 1846.



Thompson Square, northern side.
No. 6, built c. 1830.



No. 10 Thompson Square, c. 1860 (reconstruction drawing). This building, though structurally sound, is at present defaced by large advertising signs, and obscured by a roadside shop.

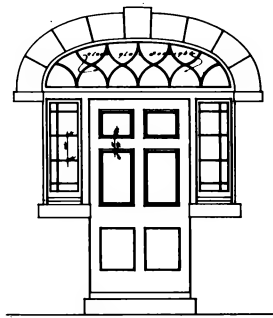


No. 265 George Street,
an Inn in 1841.



No. 14 New Street, built for George Walker in the 1840s.

Doorway, No. 312 George Street. This house is marked as "Mrs. Cope's house" in the 1881 map of Wexham. Note the unusual fanlight. (P. A. A. drawing in the Mitchell Library.)



The front entrance, Crescent Cottage, The Terrace. Built in 1852 for William Walker, solicitor and M.P.



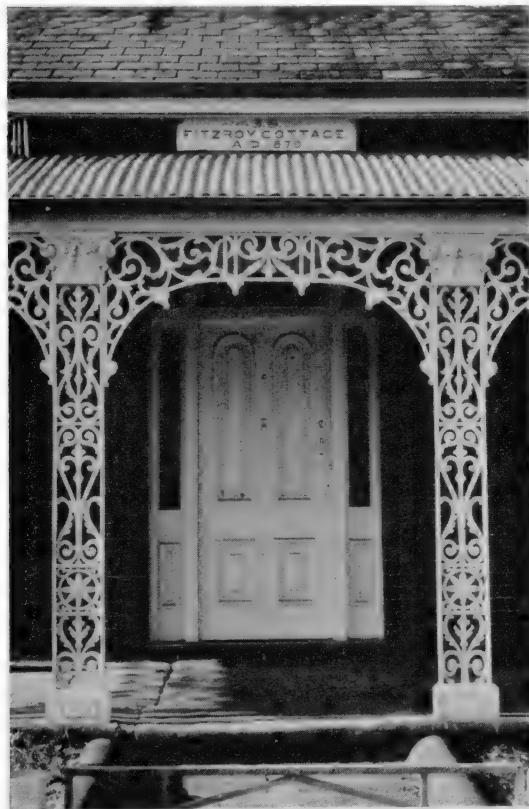
No. 126 George Street (1834).



No. 23-27 Johnston Street, early terrace housing.



The Bell Inn, c. 1840, Church and Catherine Streets.



Fitzroy Cottage (1879), No. 2 Tebut Street, is an example of a later nineteenth century house showing a continuation of the early colonial style — symmetrical facade, very simple design, and stone-flagged verandah. The Victorian developments can be seen in the larger panes of glass in the windows, the round-headed moulding on the front door echoed by the side-lights, the more elaborate chimneys, the change in patterning of the slates, and the addition of the cast iron trim. The open-work columns with matching frieze and brackets have a larger design unit than most cast iron, and they make a delightful embellishment for a small cottage. Another good example of the colonial-derived cottage with cast iron is to be found on the eastern side of Day Street (photo opposite).

Fairfield, south of the Rich-
 mond Road just outside Windsor,
 a splendid example of high Vic-
 toriana. The earliest wing of this
 house was occupied by William
 Macquarie in 1811; the main Victorian
 section was built by William
 Macquarie.



Fecallyn, Day Street, built
 by Richard Ridge in 1857 on pro-
 perty owned previously by
 Samuel Marsden. Ridge was a
 coach proprietor, running the
 mails in Sydney. Cast iron
 columns and a decorative frieze
 have replaced the original wooden
 columns on this house, and the
 tiled roof has been replaced
 by one of corrugated iron.



ROUSE HILL HOUSE

*Eight miles east of Windsor on the Sydney Road.
Shire of Blacktown.*

Richard Rouse (1774-1852) arrived in the colony as a free settler in 1801 and received a grant of land on the Hawkesbury. By 1806 he was appointed to the office of Superintendent of Public Works, having charge of the public buildings, carpenters, blacksmiths, sawyers, wheelwrights, timber carriages, wood carts, etc., at the Government Yards at Parramatta.

In the same year Margaret Catchpole, a transported convict whose letters have survived to form an interesting if unlettered commentary on the times, wrote: "Binn for this 2 yeares past up in the Countrey at Richmond hill i went thear to nurs one Mrs. Rouse a very respectfull person thay Com from englent free thay respect me as one of ther owen famely . . . Mr. Rouse did Liv up at Richmond at his farm But the Govner giv him a place(s) to Be superandtender and marster Bilder at the Lumber yeard Parramitta then i was Left over seear at his farm. But it was so Lonsum for me so i Left."¹ A document held by Mrs. Terry, the present owner of Rouse Hill, shows that Rouse was still supplying Margaret Catchpole with rations in November, 1807.

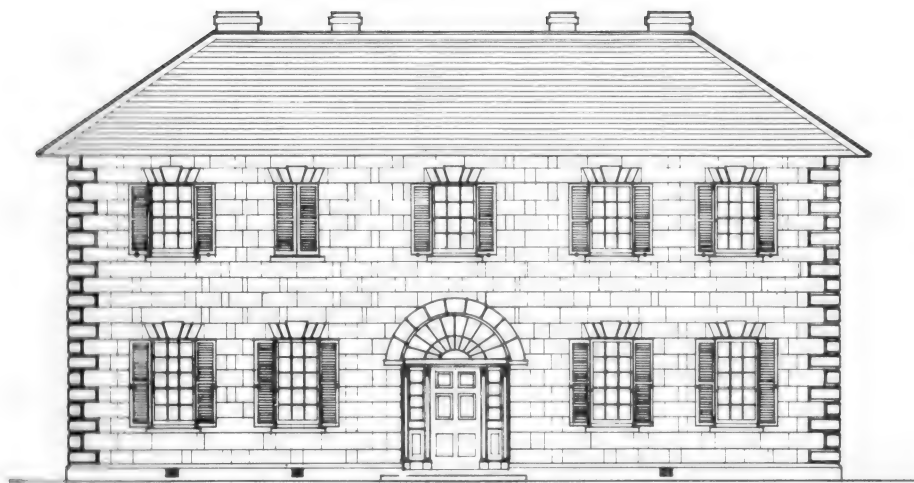
Rouse lost his position as Superintendent in 1808 because of his acknowledged support for Governor Bligh, but he was re-appointed by Macquarie in January 1810. At Parramatta, using John Watts' plan, he was concerned with the repair and enlargement of Old Government House, as well as with building toll houses and fences for the administration.

In 1816 he was given a grant of 450 acres at Vinegar Hill. This land is close to the spot where, on 5th March, 1804, the abortive attempt at a convict uprising was crushed by a handful of armed soldiers under Major Johnston. The Battle of Vinegar Hill is said to have taken place near the small road-bridge over Second Ponds Creek just east of Rouse Hill House on the road from Sydney to Windsor. Fifteen of the four hundred convicts gathered on Vinegar Hill were killed, and nine were later hanged. The battle, and the hill, became known by the name Vinegar Hill after a battle fought, and lost, by rebels in Ireland in 1798. The name of the hill was changed after Richard Rouse was granted the land.

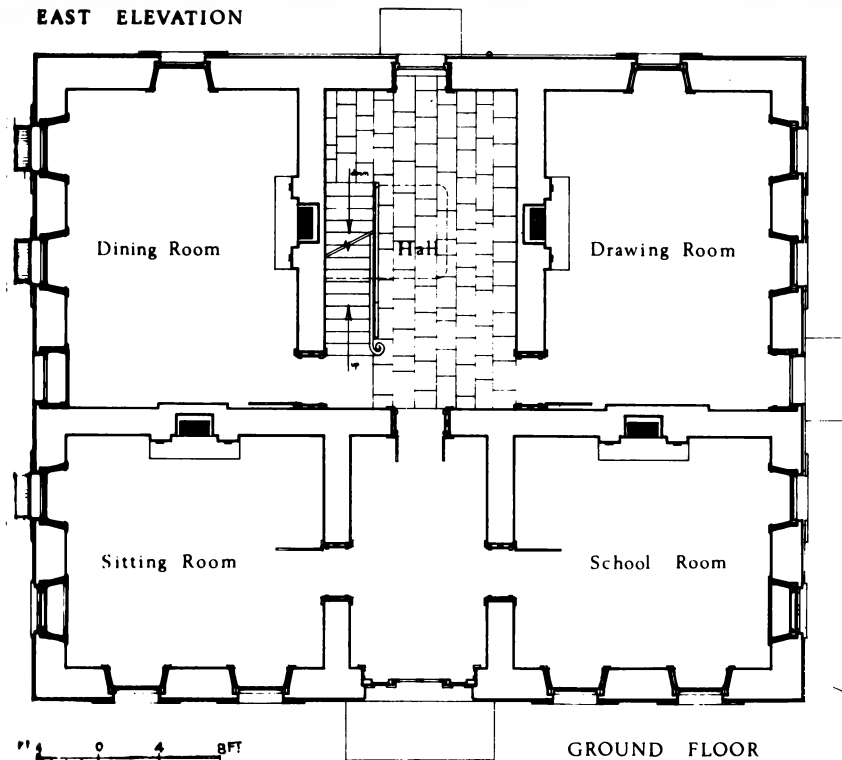
In 1817 Rouse had fences put up on his property at Rouse Hill, and he bought 1,000 batten nails. In 1818 he was paying rations to brickmakers, buying 4,000 shingles, paying for glazing, and employing stonemasons. He paid £11 for 220 feet of stone flagging and £6 for 16 stone window sills.² The building of the house was in

¹ Letter from M. Catchpole to W. Howes, 8/10/1806, MS. in the Mitchell Library.

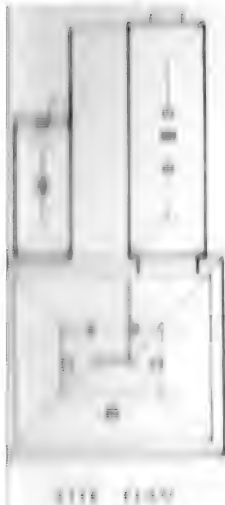
² Recorded in documents in Mrs. Terry's possession.



EAST ELEVATION



GROUND FLOOR



This plan and front elevation, drawn up by Clive Lucas, Douglas Meares and John Moran, illustrates Rouse Hill House as originally built, without its verandah. The doorway shown is conjectural, and is composed from contemporary doorways at the Macquarie Arms Hotel, Windsor, and Old Government House, Parramatta. The site plan shows the two brick wings at the rear of the main block. Reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the Public Library of N.S.W.

progress. Also in 1818 he was paid an amount from the Police Fund for the house he relinquished at Parramatta. He retired in the 1820s to Rouse Hill to become a full-time farmer, and the house was completed by 1822, when he wrote to his sister in England, inviting her to visit him and his family. He says: "should you or any of your family take a trip to see me I can give them good accommodations at my Town House in Parramatta or at my Country Seat at Rouse Hill 13 Miles from Parramatta".¹

The Rouses prospered at Vinegar Hill. They had nine children, seven of whom survived to adulthood. Their eldest daughter married Jonathan Hassall, the son of the missionary Rowland Hassall; another daughter, Elizabeth, married Robert Fitzgerald of Windsor; and another Jane, married Alfred Kennerley of The Retreat (Kelvin), Bringelly.

Richard Rouse and his sons Edwin and Richard became large landowners in the Bathurst and Mudgee districts, and between them in the years 1835-9 had a total of 64 convicts assigned to them as servants. Back in 1820, Rouse had made his views on the employment of convicts known to Commissioner Bigge. "From a number of years residence in this Colony I have observed Agriculture to afford the best means of employment for convicts, particularly that of a Government Agricultural Settlement . . . I consider the principle and most beneficial employment (after felling and burning off) is stumping the ground, Plowing and Manureing etc., which will employ a great number of Prisoners. Upon any Neglect or refusal to work the Superintendent should confine the Prisoner in a place appointed for that purpose, a Magistrate should visit the Settlement twice a week and inflict such punishment as the crime may deserve. Without the severest punishment a great number will not work . . . I am very doubtful whether the generality of Convicts would consider the more comfortably feeding and clothing them as so great an encouragement as the Ten Pounds per annum, and if paid in Cash or laid out by the Master to the Servants Satisfaction, I consider is a sufficient remuneration."²



The summer house

Rouse Hill House is now owned by Mrs. Nina B. Terry, a great-grand-daughter of Richard Rouse. It is a substantial two-storey mansion built of stone, painted over. The walls are thick and the stone-flagged cellars are deep. There is a flagged verandah on three sides, and a flagged courtyard at the rear between two brick wings which are not structurally attached to the main block. The east wing is built of small sandstock bricks and was probably the first building on the site; the two-storey west rear wing, built of modern sized bricks, replaced the original kitchen in the 1860's. In the courtyard an old hand pump still draws water from the storage tank beneath the house, and in the garden there is a graceful but forlorn little wooden summer house.

¹ Letter in Mrs. Terry's possession.

² Bigge Appendix, B.T. Box 21, p. 382, Mitchell Library.

The centrally-placed front door of the house appears to have been altered, as its design is Victorian rather than Georgian. The windows are original, with small panes and outside shutters, made doubly secure by interior folding shutters in the splayed jambs and an iron bar which falls into place behind them when they are closed. Above each window there is a single piece of stone, grooved to simulate smaller stones with a false keystone in the centre. This treatment of the flat arch can also be seen at the Windsor Court House.

Some of the furniture in the house was made by Richard Rouse himself — the dining table, the four-poster bed, and a small chair in the drawing room. Other furniture is also early, such as the built-in cupboards downstairs and the dining room chairs.

A watercolour of Rouse Hill House done in 1859 by Major Wingate shows it as a formal, symmetrical structure with no verandah. The verandah must have been added between 1859 and 1865, when it appears in a contemporary photograph. It is six feet wide, stone-flagged, and quite in keeping with the basic character of the house. The courtyard at the rear, once open, was roofed over to form an enclosed arcade late in the nineteenth century. The stable with its little *fliche* was designed by John Horbury Hunt in 1876.

The present Rouse Hill House, then, evolved over a long period of time, but has managed to maintain a character consistent with that of the main portion which was begun by Richard Rouse in 1818.



Rouse Hill House, 1965

AGNES BANK

now called Osborne

just outside the village of Agnes Banks

Agnes Bank was granted to Andrew Thompson, the man named by Macquarie as the father of Windsor. He was a man of resource and energy who was transported as a convict in 1792 at the age of seventeen. He received his pardon five years later as a reward for service as a constable at the Hawkesbury River, and he then accumulated property, reputation, and ships, and died a "most respectable and Opulent Free Settler"¹ in 1810.

He had his enemies, especially amongst the military, who were reluctant to see the Governor consorting with emancipists. In 1811 John Macarthur wrote to his wife: "I see I have omitted to notice the death of Thompson. I wonder I did, for I think it an earnest of the interposition of Providence to save the colony from utter ruin. Never was there a more artful or a greater knave."² But he also had his friends, and was granted governmental favours for good service not only to Governors Bligh and Macquarie, but also to the ordinary settlers who were establishing themselves as farmers along the Nepean and Hawkesbury. As the Head Constable of the Hawkesbury District he was responsible for "repeated useful and humane exertions" in saving lives and property during the ruinous floods which swept down the river. One reward was the furnishing of brewing utensils so that he could provide "a wholesome permanent drink for the settlers and labourers in that extensive settlement" (Windsor) at not more than a shilling per gallon.³

In 1802 he built a floating bridge across South Creek east of Windsor and was authorised to collect tolls. He built small vessels for river trading at Scotland Island in Broken Bay and established a salt works, he built houses on his land grants and in Windsor and Sydney, and he was appointed manager to Governor Bligh's Model Farm near Pitt Town. "Thus did Andrew Thompson, between 1800 and 1806, develop his varied interest as trader, toll-keeper, brewer, farmer, pastoralist, manufacturer and ship-builder, and, at the same time, win the respect of the settlement as Chief Constable. In every known avenue of wealth, and particularly in grain, he either led or participated and made progress with government approval . . . The central unit of Thompson's business was his granary — literally a vault where he deposited the golden grain that came from his own farms and from the farms of the settlers who purchased goods at his store, or his salt or his beer. From his granary he paid wages, purchased goods, provisioned his own ships and victualled those of other ship-owners who needed food for the long voyages to New Zealand and Bass Strait. His ships, in turn, connected him with Sydney and the isolated settlements at King's Town (Newcastle) and Van Diemen's Land, with New Zealand and the Pacific

¹ Historical Records of N.S.W., Vol. 7, p. 347; Macquarie's despatch to Liverpool, Oct. 27, 1810.

² Letter, Macarthur to wife, April 21, 1811.

³ *Sydney Gazette*, May 11, 1806; Government and General Order.

Islands. His salt works, cleverly situated, linked his ships with the sealskin trade and with his own pastoral pursuits that aimed at providing salt meat for the stores. His Hawkesbury barge connected him with the farms across the river. His bridge and his bullock team commanded the road from Sydney and Parramatta to the commercial centre of the Green Hills."¹

The small landholders on the Hawkesbury, with Thompson amongst them, being free migrants and emancipists whose main livelihood was the growing of wheat, supported Governor Bligh in his struggle to break the rum monopoly and place the currency on a sterling or grain standard. When the settlers sent a formal address of support to Bligh on 1st January, 1808, signed by 833 people, it was enclosed with a letter from Andrew Thompson. "From a fidelity and strong attachment to Your Excellency which nothing can shake or alienate, I took the liberty of properly putting forward with the greatest energy amongst the respectable people here and (in) other parts of the country this inclosed address, which I named some time ago as designed to strengthen your Excellency's Government and confound the enemies thereof, by thus evincing to the world the popularity and high estimation in which it is held by all the respectable inhabitants of this colony."² This letter at the same time advocated a more liberal policy of free trade and trial by jury.

But Bligh had alienated the military and the pastoralists in his attempt to establish the legal and economic foundations of government policy, and under Johnston the army marched on Government House and arrested him on 26th January, 1808. Thompson was dismissed as Chief Constable, being replaced by Richard Fitzgerald, Macarthur's own agent at the Hawkesbury.

Lachlan Macquarie, however, took over the administration in 1810. He had respect for Thompson's "superior local knowledge and good sound sense and judicious advice"; he invited him to his table, and appointed him Justice of the Peace and Chief Magistrate of the Hawkesbury, thus distinguishing him as the first emancipist to be appointed as a magistrate and thus officially repudiating his convict past in accordance with the government policy of emancipation.

When Andrew Thompson died in 1810 at the premature age of 35, he had accumulated 2,588 acres of land, and he left Macquarie and Simeon Lord each a quarter of his property. He was the first man to be buried in St. Matthew's cemetery, and Macquarie, "as a tribute of regard and friendship", erected a tombstone carved with a long and approving epitaph which still can be seen in the churchyard. Macquarie also named Thompson Square in Windsor after him.

Thompson's extensive Estate was advertised for sale in the *Sydney Gazette* on 17th October, 1812. He had been granted 78 acres at Agnes Bank in May, 1804, and a few months later a further 200 acres alongside were added. He named the place after his mother. It is doubtful that the existing house on the property was built before Thompson died, despite his practice of putting improvements on his land grants. There is no mention of a house in the sale notice:

"Lot 4. Two hundred and seventy eight Acres of Land known by the name of Agnes Bank, 200 of which is felled and 60 cleared, in rich arable condition; and a fully

¹ *Royal Australian Historical Society Journal*, Vol. 48, Pt. 2, pp. 118-120, J. V. Byrnes' paper, 'Andrew Thompson, 1773-1810'.

² *Historical Records of N.S.W.*, Vol. 6, p. 373, Andrew Thompson to Governor Bligh, Jan. 1, 1808.

³ *Lachlan Macquarie, Journal of his Tours*, (Public Library of N.S.W., 1956), p. 27, Dec. 2, 1810.



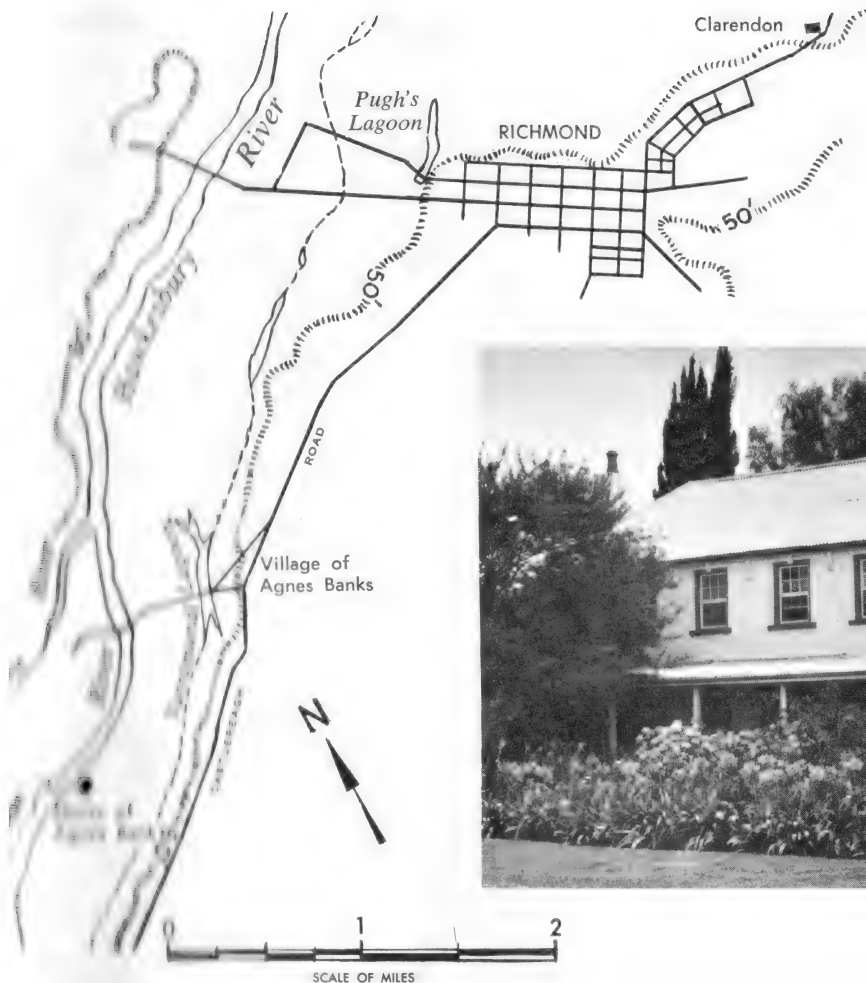
grown Peach Orchard of 10 acres, situate on the Banks of the River Nepean, within eight miles of the Town of Windsor; commanding an extensive Common Right and high building land secure from all Floods."

The Estate was not sold until 1815, when John Campbell, Macquarie's trusted secretary and administrator, bought Agnes Bank for upwards of £500. He advertised later that year for tenants. He advertised again in 1823: "On this Estate, there are two good farm-houses with suitable offices, and it possesses by far the largest and best peachery in full bearing ever planted in the Colony extending over a surface of upwards of eleven acres. Agnes Bank is so long and publicly known as an Estate, at once possessed of such a superior fertility either for the plough or pasturage, and a scenery so unrivalledly beautiful, rich, varied and picturesque."¹ Thus the present house was certainly in existence by this time.

The house at Agnes Bank is now called Osborne by its owner, Mr. R. J. Barr, who runs a racehorse stud on the property. It is more than a mile south-west of the village of Agnes Banks, and can just be seen from the Richmond-Penrith road. The house is typical of the early colonial period, a neat two-storey brick structure, small in scale, stuccoed, marked as stone, and painted white, with plain wooden shutters downstairs, stone-flagged verandah, small-paned windows and tall chimneys. The detailing of the wooden dentil below the eaves of the house makes a neat and simple finish to the design with the dark grey window frames and sills and plain wooden shutters.

Behind the main section of the house there is a detached kitchen and cellar of a later date. Nearer the river stands the substantial barn built of thick straight timbers felled from the estate. Agnes Bank has a lovely setting amongst flowers and trees against the backdrop of the foothills of the Blue Mountains.

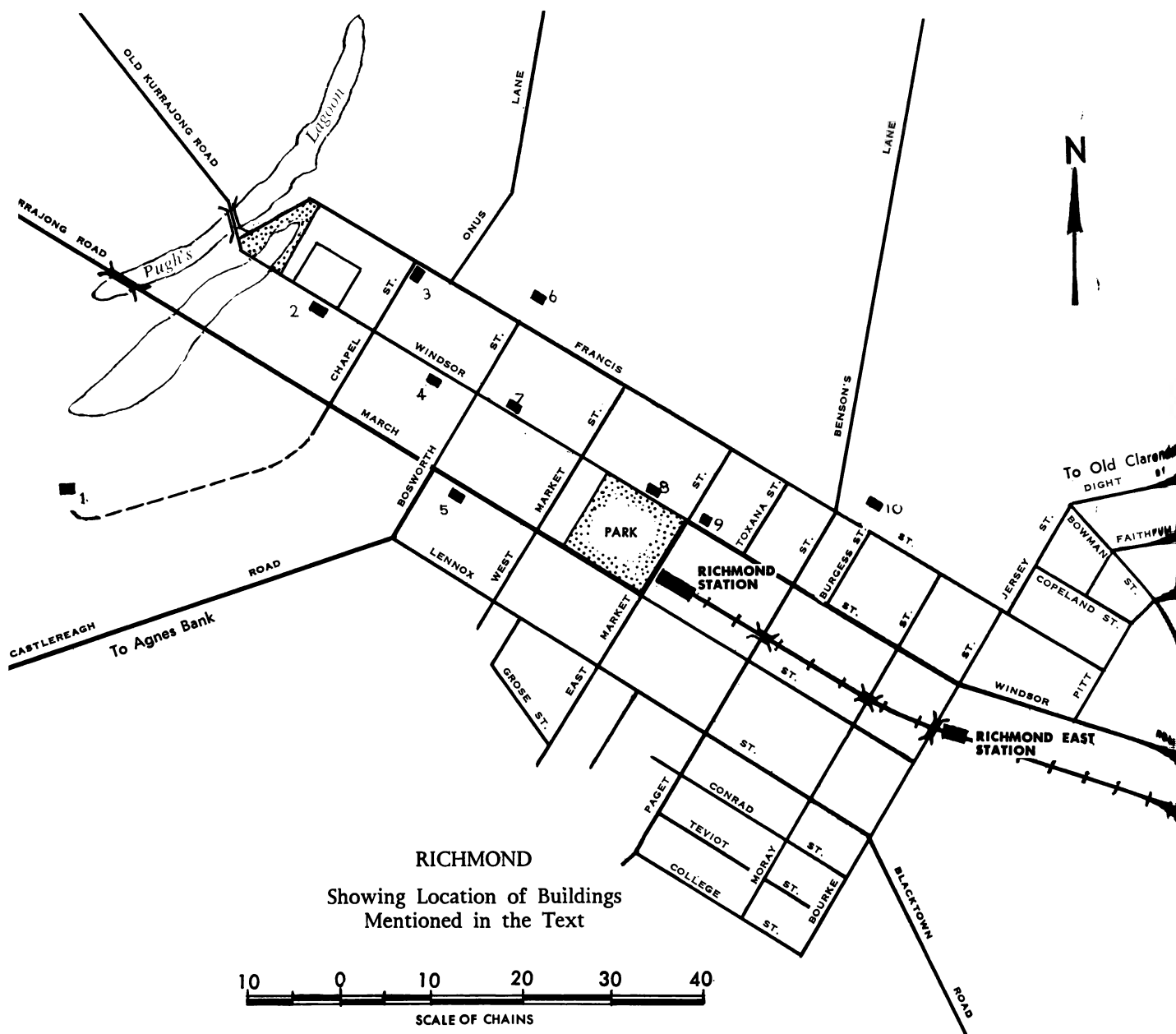
¹ *Sydney Gazette*, March 13, 1823.



Agnes Bank

On Thursday, 10th January, 1811, Governor Macquarie wrote in his Journal: "Having thus marked out the township of Castlereagh, we next proceeded to that of Richmond; and having again minutely examined the ground there, the scite of the church, school-house and burying ground were marked out by strong posts put in the ground by the Surveyor, to define more clearly their respective limits. The great square in the centre of the township and the principal streets were also marked out in the same manner by the Surveyor. The name of the town, painted on a board and nailed to a strong lofty post, was put up close to the beautiful bank immediately above and overlooking Pugh's Lagoon and the adjoining rich low lands, where it is intended to erect the church of Richmond.

"I have fortunately been enabled to fix thus the situation of the town of Richmond on the most eligible and convenient spot of ground that could be found in the whole country, from the circumstance of having got Mr. Nicholas Bayly to relinquish to the Crown a small farm belonging to him here about 150 acres (for which I give him 300 acres as an equivalent in another part of the country) and Wm. Bowman, a settler, relinquishing also about 25 acres (for which he receives sixty acres elsewhere as an equivalent) adjoining to Mr. Bayly's farm; their grounds being most beautifully situated running along the top of a fine bank out of the reach of all inundations, and along which bank the front of the new intended township is marked out, the depth thereof extending backwards into the Public Common."



KEY

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Hobartville | 6. Farm House, Francis Street |
| 2. St. Peter's Church | 7. Old wooden shop, Windsor Street |
| 3. No. 2 Chapel Street | 8. 183 Windsor Street |
| 4. Bowman House | 9. Toxana |
| 5. 156 March Street | 10. 61 Francis Street |

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

Windsor Street, Richmond



"The Committee for Building a Church at Richmond, are desirous to receive Tenders for the several trades, to be addressed 'Tenders for Richmond Church', under cover to the Rev. H. T. Stiles, Windsor, on or before the 15th November. The Drawings and Specification may be seen, and all necessary information obtained by applying to Mr. Clarke, Architect, Phillip Street, Sydney, between Ten and Four o'Clock, any day after the 24th instant." This notice appeared in *The Australian* newspaper on

18th October, 1836. The architect, Francis Clarke, built houses in Elizabeth, Pitt and King Streets in Sydney, but now his only known surviving works are the Church of St. Mary Magdalene at St. Marys and this simple brick church at Richmond with its mellow and pleasantly-proportioned interior.

The church was built on a site at the Western end of the town over-looking Ham Common and the Hawkesbury River flats. It was called St. Peter's. Some bricks from the old school-church building which had served the town since 1810 were used to erect a small obelisk in the churchyard. It was agreed that 400 acres of Ham Common would be given for glebe land for the church. The graveyard, older than the church, is on the opposite side of Windsor Street, and many notable pioneers are buried there — William Cox, Charles Harpur, and Margaret Catchpole amongst them. It is a well-kept and pleasant place, unlike most graveyards.

William Cox, jun. of Hobartville was appointed Trustee and Treasurer for the Church Building Committee. He paid James Atkinson, the builder, £1697·18·10 over a period of four years from 1839 for the erection of St. Peter's¹. Of this, the Colonial Treasury contributed £849·0·11, half, in accordance with its powers to contribute to the erection of Places of Worship and Ministers' Dwellings under the Colonial Church Act of 1836.

There have been alterations to St. Peter's. When the church was opened by Bishop Broughton on 15th July, 1841, there was neither porch, gallery, nor chancel. The plan of the pews and the two bisecting broad aisles has been altered, and the pulpit, reading desk, and clerk's seat, originally arranged one above the other, with a flight of a dozen steps leading to the pulpit, have been re-arranged, as have the two large quadrangular pews in the eastern corners of the church which were occupied by the Coxes of Hobartville and Dr. Whittaker.² Around the panelled walls, plaques recall the early settlers. The porch on the north side of the church and the chancel were added about 1870, and the panelled gallery inside was built. The southern wall of the church has now unfortunately been cement rendered, a bleak and unsympathetic treatment for the old sandstock brickwork.

¹ *The Australian*, July 22, 1842, General Abstract of sums received and expended.

² *Hawkesbury Herald*, Oct. 16 and 23, 1903, "Reminiscences of Richmond", by Cooramil.

THE BOWMAN HOUSES

Toxana and the Township House Windsor Street, Richmond

In the main street of Richmond there are two houses built by successive generations of the Bowman family — Toxana, completed by 1841 for William Bowman, and further towards the church and the river, another earlier house, built by William's father, John Bowman, which dates back to 1824.

John Bowman (1763-1825) arrived in New South Wales in 1798 and settled at Richmond, farming the property Archerfield which he received as a grant of 100 acres on April 8, 1799.¹ He came from England as a free settler under certain encouraging conditions :

"To have a passage found, and our families to be victualled by Government during the voyage; On our arrival in the Colony, to have the Grant of one hundred acres of land at Port Jackson, or fifty acres at Norfolk Island; to be victualled and cloathed from the public Stores for the term of twelve months after being put in possession of our respective allotments, and to be allowed the labour of two convicts (maintained by Government) for the same term; after which, we and our families are to be of no further expence to the Crown.

To have the same proportion of stock, seed grain, and agricultural tools as have been furnished to other Settlers, together with such other assistance as the Governor may judge proper to afford us.

The following is the proportion of Agricultural Tools and Cloathing, or an equivalent thereto :—

Tools &c. — 500 12-d. nails, 500 24-d.

do., 1 bill hook, 2 reaping hooks, 1 musket, 16 musket balls, 1 spade, 2 gimblets, 1 iron pot, 2 tomahawks, 2 West India hoes, 1 pound of powder, 2 falling axes, 1 adze, 1 auger, 1 hand saw, 1 cross-cut saw between two.

Slop Cloathing, to Men — 1 jacket, 1 frock, 1 pair of stockings, 1 bed case, 1 shirt and 1 pair of trowsers, 1 hat, 1 pair of shoes, 2 blankets, 1 coverlid.

To Women — 1 jacket, 1 pair of shoes, 1 handkerchief, 1 petticoat, 1 shift, 1 cap.

To Children — as above, if on the Stores.

The Ration during the term is the same with that issued to every other description of persons victualled from the public Stores.

The prescribed Stock and Grain to Free Settlers of the above description is, two female goats, ewes, or sows; Six Bushels of Wheat, and a sufficiency of Maize, to crop the first Year."²

Armed with these supplies, the settlers were to set forth and subdue the new land and its climate. They were not encouraged to claim further favours from the

¹ Registrar-General's Records.

² *Sydney Gazette*, September 22, 1805; these conditions were re-stated here at the request of John Bowman.



No. 367 Windsor Street, built by John Bowman in 1821.

administration. The Government and General Order which sets out these conditions ended on an austere note, reminding the settlers of the autocratic powers of the Governor.

"And it is to be clearly understood, that any additional Advantage the Governor may think proper to accord any Settler or Settlers, or to Cultivators of any description; As a Reward of Industry and good behaviour, on account of their families, or from any other consideration; That such Accommodations do not give any other person or description of persons Claims for similar Indulgences beyond what the Governor may judge they merit."

John Bowman quickly identified himself with the cause of the free settlers on the Hawkesbury, opposing the monopolistic practices of the military and supporting stable government as administered by the Governors Bligh and Macquarie. The settlers submitted various petitions and addresses from time to time to the Governors, particularly to Bligh, and even wrote to Viscount Castlereagh, the Colonial Secretary in England, plainly stating their case against the military faction. Their efforts were rewarded by the instructions given to Macquarie to give help and encouragement to the smaller settlers, and by the decline of the influence of the military during Macquarie's governorship.

Their accusations were blunt: "The Officers were interested in impeding Agriculture; the more Settlers were ruined the cheaper they could purchase Estates; the less grain grown by Settlers, the better prices they had for their own."¹

To Bligh, they had written an address of welcome in 1806 signed by 244 names.

"We consider ourselves the more fortunate in this (Bligh's safe arrival) at a time when the Country is labouring under the greatest calamity in being brought to the near approach of a Famine . . . by the Great Flood . . . greater than had been in this Colony since it was first inhabited by Europeans. This disaster happened at a time when the Landholders, Settlers, and Cultivators were struggling to overcome a still greater difficulty occasioned by the oppressions before in practice by a mistaken policy in oppressing the Merchants and Inhabitants in general by sending from this Port ships that arrived with merchandize, of Necessaries and Comforts, by not suffering them to land their goods for sale, although the Colony was in the greatest want of the Articles they brought."¹

¹ Historical Records of N.S.W., Vol. 7, p. 33; Address from the settlers to Viscount Castlereagh, 17th February, 1809.

The address continued: "We look up to your Excellency in Wisdom to put in practice such means as may be for the Salvation, honor and interest of the Colony, and for averting the approach of Famine and distress to its Inhabitants —

By restoring the Freedom of Trade.

By permitting Commodities to be bought and sold at a fair open Market (by all the Inhabitants).

By preventing that painful Monopoly and Extortion heretofore practised.

By Protecting the Merchant and Trader in their properties, and the People in general in their Rights, Privileges, Liberties, and Professions, as by Law established.

By suffering the Laws of this Realm to take their due course in matters of property without control.

That Justice may be administered by the Courts authorized by His Majesty, according to the known Law of the Land.

By causing payment to be made in such Money or Government Orders as will pass current in the purchase of every Article of Merchandize without Drawback or Discount.

We most respectfully assure your Excellency we are ready on all occasions to lay down our Lives and Fortunes for the protection and support of your Excellency in the good Government, Welfare, and prosperity of the Colony, and to comply with every recommendation Your Excellency may in wisdom propose for the Government of this Territory.

We look up to the time when it may please His Majesty to authorize in such a manner as his justice may deem meet a Legal Authority to make Local Laws for the Government of the Colony.

We subscribe this Address, the loyal People, Settlers, Landholders, Cultivators, and other Principal Inhabitants of the Hawkesbury and parts adjacent."

In conclusion, they stated: "We, the Free Inhabitants who subscribe this Address, request Messrs. John Bowman, Matthew John Gibbons, George Crossley, William Cummings, and T. M. Pitt, or any of them, as our Deputies (in our names) to present this Address, and, at the same time, to represent the Infringement made on our Rights, Privileges and Liberties by John McArthur, Esq., who appears by the *Sydney Gazette* to have signed 'For the Inhabitants' without our previous knowledge, consent or authority, public or private."¹

After Bligh was deposed by the Rum Rebellion, the Hawkesbury settlers still persisted in supporting the deposed Governor and stating their claims, and fourteen of them, including John Bowman, sent off the 1809 memorial to Viscount Castlereagh stating that they had no hand in the rebellion: "That they do abhor and detest the said Act, its Aidors and Abettors, and were in every way fully satisfied and content under His Excellency's [Governor Bligh's] Administration."² They also pointed out "That your Memorialists are without any Protection from the law or Public Orders, the Magistrates publicly declaring they acted by their own discretion; that when your Memorialists applied for protection they were frequently treated with insult; and if they presumed to appeal to the Governor they were lyable to be dragged to prison by convicts and locked up without Meat, Drink, Fire, or Candle, or even Straw

¹ Historical Records of N.S.W., Vol. 6, p. 568. Address from the settlers to Governor Bligh, 1806. Among the 244 names, nearly one half are signed with a cross.

² Historical Records of N.S.W., Vol. 7, p. 149.



No. 367, Front Doorway

House for 30/- in money.”¹ He died the following year, and left this house to his son George, who lived until 1878 and concerned himself with farming and grazing stock on the Hunter River, as well as with public affairs, being elected to the new parliament in 1851.

No. 367 is a colonial house of considerable character, though it has been altered superficially in some ways. (The stone-flagged verandah has been spoilt by the erection of a partition in the middle and by the addition of clumsy bases to the verandah posts. The projecting rooms at each end of the verandah have been cement rendered.) The overhanging slate roof has three gable windows lighting the attic rooms. In the main section of the house the walls are of brick, set in timber uprights and overlaid with wooden planks, a method of building sometimes used by the early settlers. The weatherboard covering protected the soft sandstock bricks from deterioration.

John and Honor Bowman had four children, and their son William is listed in the 1828 census as possessing 300 acres at Richmond, with 137 of these cleared and 130 cultivated. He also had four horses and two horned cattle at this time.

In the 1830's William Bowman became interested in the promotion of free immigration to the colony. He left for a two-year visit to England in 1836, and married Elizabeth Arthur there. In 1837, to sponsor migrants, he signed an agreement with John Marshall, captain of the ship *City of Edinburgh*, to pay for the passage of twelve married couples from London to Sydney.²

In the same year he was granted the site of the house Toxana, in Windsor Street, Richmond, between Market and Toxana Streets. The two-storey house was completed and occupied by 1841. James Melville laid the bricks. A carpenter, George Marlin, was engaged in England and, with his family, brought to Australia to assist in building Toxana, and he settled in Richmond afterwards.

to lye on, with the most abandoned Thieves.” Here they cited the case of John Bowman himself, who was tried, fined and imprisoned without being taken before a Magistrate for the offence of saying unguardedly that one Nicholas Bayly was a rogue.

When Governor Macquarie had brought stability to the colony, and had regained respect for the administration, John Bowman concentrated on farming pursuits. In 1821 he commenced building a house in the main street of Richmond, now No. 367 Windsor St..

..... In 1824 he wrote in his Journal, “Agreed with Thurston to finish 2 Rooms in the township

¹ Journal of John Bowman, MS. in the Mitchell Library, p. 10, Aug. 2, 1824.

² Letter from William Bowman to John Marshall, 1837, in the possession of Mr. R. Stuart Bowman.

William Bowman stood for parliament in the 1843 election, the first election in Australia, which preceded the inaugural session of partly responsible government. The seat for the Cumberland Boroughs of Richmond, Windsor, Liverpool and Campbelltown, was contested by Bowman and his rival candidate, Robert Fitzgerald of Windsor. The campaign evolved into a heated contest, with, allegedly, the climax being a battle between rival supporters waged with palings from the Windsor Court House



Toxana

fence. The local newspaper commented, with great impartiality: "It is apparent then that neither their (the candidates') political views nor their Senatorial abilities are sufficient reasons for causing any great ebullition of popular feeling in their favour. The only elucidation that the most sensible persons on either side can offer is the difference of their extraction, which is the bugbear held up by the one party as influencing the other . . . but considering the present state of the Colony, that is about the last subject which should be broached by any who have our welfare at heart. The interest of the Emigrant and Prisoner population are so intimately blended and identified with each other, that it will be impossible ever to draw a line between them . . . Those persons are much to be censured who would open old wounds, which it was hoped were in a fair way of being finally closed."¹

William Bowman won the election by one vote, and was re-elected in 1848. Fitzgerald, however, also became a member of the Legislative Council later, being appointed in 1849.

William Bowman extended his farming and grazing pursuits, and had several properties in the Bathurst district. He died at Richmond in 1874 and is buried in St. Peter's graveyard. The house he built, Toxana, is a substantial two-storey mansion, rather heavy and ponderous in style. Its awkwardly-designed verandahs make it appear a poorly-proportioned building. The iron-work balustrading and open columns on the first floor are inconsistent with the columns and balusters on the ground floor, and the heavy stonework framing the entrance dwarfs the unsuitable modern front door.

Toxana became the property of the Rev. James Cameron, afterwards Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church in Australia, and then in 1891 was taken over by the newly set up Hawkesbury Agricultural College to provide temporary accommodation for its students. The College, which was established to give scientific and practical training to aspiring young farmers, had acquired land just out of Richmond.

The house Toxana has now been subdivided and is leased as flats. The older Bowman house, No. 367 Windsor Street, is owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Eather.

¹ *Windsor Express and Richmond Advertiser*, March 1, 1843.

HOBARTVILLE

Richmond

The estate on which Hobartville stands was granted in 1804 to Edward Lutterel (also spelt Luttrell) before the town of Richmond itself was laid out. Before 1809 there was some settlement on Ham Common, the original deed of this Common being made out to John Bowman, Andrew Thompson, William Cox, William Michim and Edward Lutterel.

Lutterel's daughter married Lieut. Atkins in 1813, and in 1814 (March 12th) the *Sydney Gazette* printed a notice advising that "a Farm and Premises, situate at Richmond, consisting of 400 Acres, more or less, known by the Name of Luttrell's Farm, now the property of Lieut. Atkins of the 73d. Regt." was to be let. "It joins a very extensive Common, and for Grazing of Stock or Cultivation is inferior to none."

By 1816 Lutterel's Farm had come to be called Hobartville. On February 17 of that year another notice appeared in the *Sydney Gazette*; "To be let, for such Term of Years as may be agreed upon, a desirably situated Farm at Richmond, named Hobart Bill (sic), containing 400 Acres: on the Farm is a neat and commodious Dwelling House, excellent Garden, out offices, and possesses every conveniency. Further particulars may be known by applying to Mr. Atkins, residing on the Farm, or at No. 17 York Street." (The dwelling referred to in this notice is not the house now known as Hobartville, which was completed in 1828.)

Lieutenant William Cox had purchased Hobartville from Atkins, and in 1818 added, by further purchase, an adjoining farm of 100 acres, which had been granted in 1802 to James Blackman. He named the property after Lord Hobart.

This William Cox was the son of William Cox the road-builder. He came to



Hobartville, drawn by Conrad Martens, dated August 9, 1838, from "Sketches in Australia", reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the Mitchell Library.

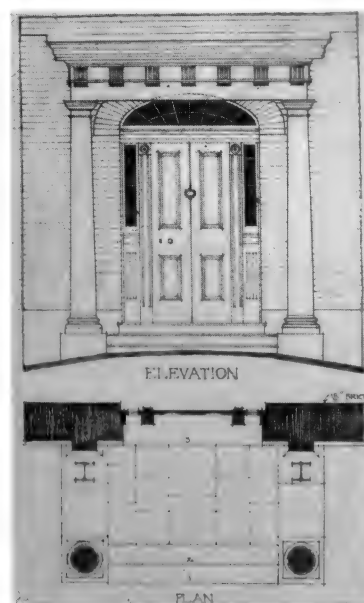
Australia in 1804, and returned to England a few years later, where he purchased a commission in the army, and served in the Peninsular War. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Captain John Piper, in 1813, and they set out for Australia, arriving in February 1814. It is possible that for part of the journey they voyaged in the same ship that carried the convicted Francis Greenway, the *General Hewitt*.

Elizabeth Cox wrote in a letter on 16th February, 1828, about the new house being finished. She stated that "all the furniture required for the carpenters is to come from England and the Paints. . . The Carpenters are very busy. They have been working in the house these six weeks but it will take many months to finish off all as it should be done but I look forward to great comfort when it is completed if it pleases God to spare us to enjoy it."¹ The architect responsible for the design of Hobartville is unknown.

It is a fine, well-built two-storey brick mansion, with a small portico over the main entrance somewhat reminiscent of the one at Old Government House, Parramatta. The front door has sidelights and an elliptical fanlight above it, and it opens into a stone-flagged hall with a graceful stone geometrical staircase curving up to the first floor. On the western side of the house, a projecting bay opens onto flagged verandahs and generous lawns. An outbuilding still standing alongside the main house contained the kitchen and other utility rooms, and there is evidence of convict occupation in the substantial cellars beneath the building with their stout doors, narrow bunks, and barred windows. William Cox planted an avenue of oak trees leading to the house as well as many other trees along the river banks.

Hobartville became well established as a centre of activity in the district. In 1819 a branch of the first Savings Bank in the Colony had been established there. In June of that year, Robert Campbell, merchant and trader of Sydney, with Mr. Justice Field, were instrumental in convening a meeting of the inhabitants of the colony to consider the formation of a Savings Bank. Governor Macquarie was in the chair, and it was resolved "That Mr. R. Campbell, Sen., of Sydney; Mr. H. M'Arthur of Parramatta; Mr. Wm. Cox, jun. of Windsor; and Mr. Moore of Liverpool, be duly authorised by the Committee hereinafter named of the New South Wales Saving Bank, on every Saturday, at 10 o'Clock in the Morning, or at such other Day and Time as they shall appoint, to open a Book for the Receipt of any Sum, not less than two Shillings and Sixpence, from any Person of his Neighbourhood, male or female, married or single, and for the Re-payment of such Sum on demand, but only at the same Day and Time."² The interest on £1 for one complete year was 1/6d.

Following this, on July 10, 1819, a notice signed by Robert Campbell appeared in the *Sydney Gazette*: "Saving Bank. Notice is hereby given, that the Books will be



Portico and doorway, Hobartville, drawn by W. Hardy Wilson, reproduced by permission of the National Library of Australia, Canberra.

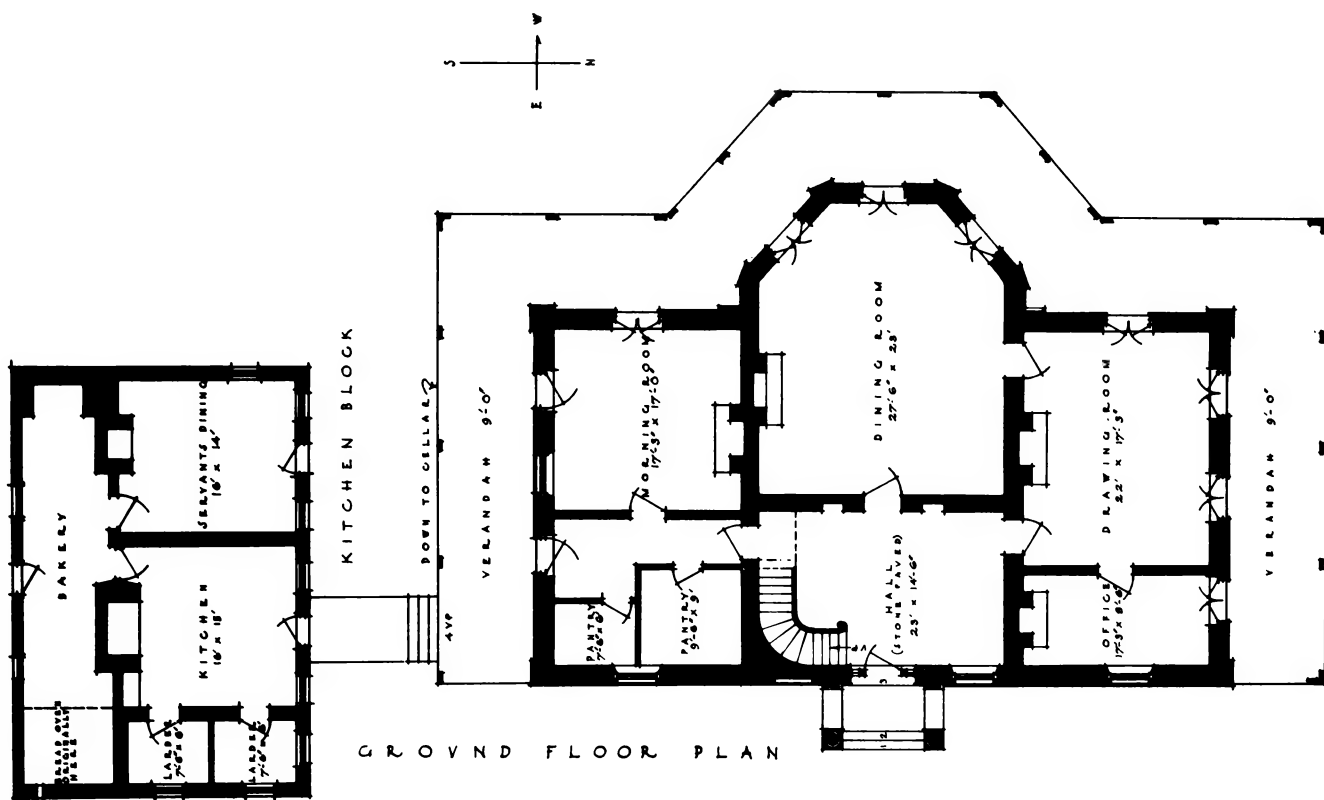
¹ Piper Papers, Vol. 2, p. 63, in the Mitchell Library.

² *Sydney Gazette*, June 19, 1819.

"HOBARTVILLE"
RICHMOND
NEW SOUTH WALES



EAST ELEVATION



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

The elevation was drawn by B. G. Noble, D. Sparks, N. S. D. Wood and I. B. F. Wyness, students of the School of Architecture and Building, University of N.S.W.; the plan was drawn by W. Hardy Wilson, and is reproduced by permission of the National Library of Australia, Canberra.



opened for the Receipt of the Savings of the Industrious Poor of the Colony, at the following Places, on Saturday next, 17th July Instant at 10 o'Clock in the Forenoon . . . at Windsor, Mr. Wm. Cox's jun. at Hobart Ville."

"Campbell's Bank" was the name the New South Wales Saving Bank went by. The first Balance Sheet records that £53 was lodged by the industrious poor in 1819, and £7 was paid to them, leaving a total of £46.

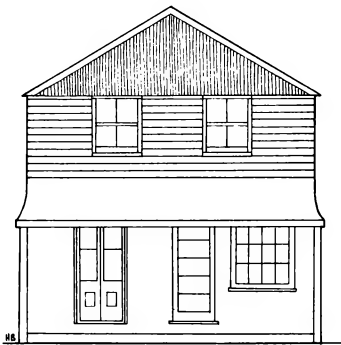
Lieut. William Cox had three sons and five daughters. He died at Hobartville in 1850, leaving his estate of about 500 acres to his wife and after her death to his son William. He also owned land near Muswellbrook. In 1863 Hobartville was conveyed to his third son, Sloper Cox, who lived there until 1877.

The property was then acquired by Andrew Town, who bred race horses, draught horses and cattle there. Hobartville became well-known for the yearly sales of blood stock held under the oak trees. Town's esteem for his horses was widely known. It is said that in a Hawkesbury flood when water was lapping at the Hobartville verandah doors, he took his champion horse Tarragen upstairs for safety.

In 1889 Hobartville was acquired by W. A. Long and Mr. Hill, and they sold it in 1901 to Percy Reynolds, who bred Hereford Stud cattle and gained many championships at the Sydney Royal Show.

The house is still in good condition, and is approached by an avenue of old trees leading in from the end of Chapel Street, Richmond. It has been placed on the Register of Historic Buildings in recognition of its historic and architectural interest.

OTHER EARLY RICHMOND BUILDINGS



Old wooden shop, 289 Windsor Street



Old farm house off Francis Street, built by the Onus family, possibly in the 1820's



183 Windsor Street
(now demolished)



Clarendon, Dight Street, remaining
servants' quarters, c. 1821



Rutherglen, 156 March Street
built in the 1830's, also
called Grimwood House.



Benson House, 61 Francis St.,
built by the Benson family,
shipwrights of the Hawkes-
bury, c. 1840. The original
house was a one-storey
structure with a detached
kitchen and cellar behind.
A second storey was added at
the turn of the century.



Josieville, No. 2 Chapel Street, built by Joseph Onus in
the late 1830's. The upstairs verandah was added about
1870. This house faces a splendid avenue of plane trees
in Chapel Street.

PITT TOWN

St. James' Church and the Scots Presbyterian Church opposite



St. James', Pitt Town



*The Scots Presbyterian Church,
Pitt Town*

St. James' Church, Pitt Town, is beautifully sited on a ridge above the broad flood plain of the Hawkesbury River, with a fine prospect across to Windsor on the south. The foundation stone was laid by Bishop Barker in 1857, and the church was in use by the end of that year though it was not consecrated until 1859.

It is a small church of stone, with a slate roof complete with a little stone bell turret. Though it has not been clearly established that the Pitt Town church was designed by Edmund Blacket, this type of turret was used many times by him in the design of his small churches, and it also graces the west wall of the church at Wilberforce, which was in fact designed by Blacket and built about the same time. Both churches are good examples of the simple stone church wherein the building elements are used with careful restraint and a fine sense of proportion, whilst the overall design reflects the long tradition of English parish church architecture.

At Pitt Town, St. James' forms the key member of a pleasant group of buildings. Opposite, there is the little stone Scots Presbyterian Church, erected in 1860. The interiors of both churches are unspoilt, with exposed stone walls and wooden rafters. Nearby, an old church hall of sandstock bricks, thought to be erected about 1820, and a rectory of colonial style, combine with the big trees to contribute to the locality's atmosphere of serenity.

WILBERFORCE

The Old School House and St. John's Church

At Wilberforce, the two-storey School House erected by John Brabyn on a site chosen by Macquarie, dates back to 1819. It is a brick building, now rendered, with stone quoins and a verandah at ground floor level. It was used as a school, a church, and a residence for the school-master until 1859 when the pleasant little stone church alongside it was consecrated. Lessons were continued in this School House until the opening of the Public School in 1880, one of the pupils there being Fred Ward who later became notorious as the bushranger Thunderbolt.

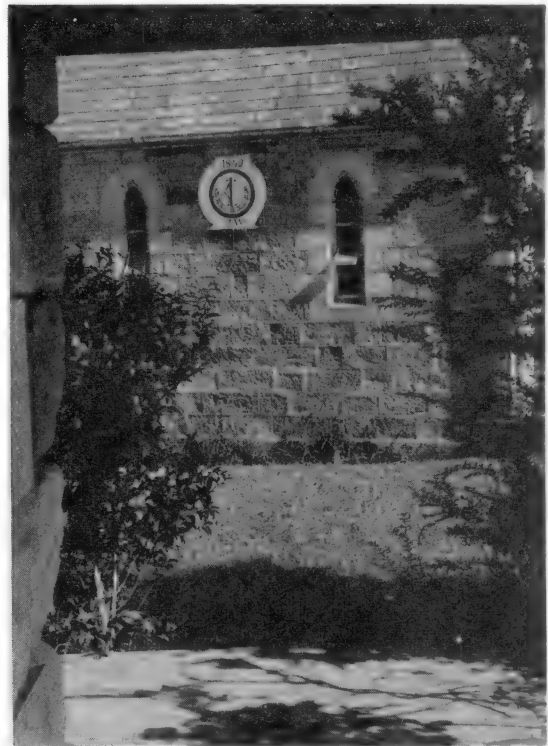
In 1849 it was announced that a sufficient sum had been collected to build a church at Wilberforce. "We hope that in the erection of this church the neat and elegant plans drawn by Mr. Blackett will be strictly attended to,"¹ stated the church building committee, but St. John's was not begun until 1856. It was built by J. Atkinson of Windsor for £1500 "of solid stone in 12 inch courses, dressed inside and outside in such a manner as not to require plastering, under Mr. Blackett, architect of Sydney."²

On their elevated site overlooking the scattered village of Wilberforce, this church and the old School House reside companionably together despite their differing architectural styles, one colonial and the other derived from traditional English parish church architecture.

Between two narrow windows on the wall of the church there is a vertical sun-dial, carved by the school-master John Wenban in the year that the church was consecrated, and beside the School House a gravestone bears the date 1804.

¹ *Sydney Morning Herald*, July 12, 1849.

² *Empire*, December 23, 1856, quoted by Mr. D. G. Bowd in his *Short History of Wilberforce*.



EBENEZER CHURCH

Portland Head, 7 miles north of Windsor

The oldest church building in Australia, Ebenezer Church was built in 1809 by a band of Scottish Presbyterians who settled on the Hawkesbury. The name Ebenezer was chosen because it means "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us". They asked no assistance from the administration, but contributed materials and their own labour. One settler, Owen Cavanough, donated the site of about four acres, which Rowland Hassall described as "a most Beautyfull and centrycal spot which we have called Ebenezer Mount".¹

James Mein, a Presbyterian elder, led the services, but ministers of various denominations visited the church. John Dunmore Lang held the first Presbyterian communion service in Australia there in 1824. Ebenezer Church was also used as a school house in the early years. It is a simple little building with thick stone walls, a slate roof, and windows of eighteen small glass panes. The main doorway was originally in the centre of the wall shown in the photograph below, but it has been blocked up, and a porch was added in 1929 at the western end of the building.

Old gravestones stand beside the little church, reminders of the first members of its congregation, who used to come to church by horse, carriage and rowing boat.

¹ Australian Encyclopaedia.



Ebenezer Church

*Photo: Max Dupain
by courtesy, National Trust*

The Register of Historic Buildings

*Elizabeth Farm House, Alice Street, Parramatta.

**Elizabeth Bay House, Onslow Avenue, Elizabeth Bay.

*Roseneath Cottage, O'Connell Street, Parramatta.

*Kelvin, Bringelly.

*Fernhill, Mulgoa.

*Glenfield, Casula.

Newington, Holker Street, Silverwater.

Vaucluse House, Wentworth Road, Vaucluse.

St. Matthew's Rectory, Windsor.

Hyde Park Barracks, Queens Square, Sydney.

The Rum Hospital, Macquarie Street, Sydney; the Mint
Building and Parliament House.

Liverpool Hospital, Central Wing, Liverpool.

The Lancer Barracks, Parramatta.

Lansdowne Bridge, Lansvale.

The Female Orphan School, Rydalmere.

Old Government House, Parramatta.

The University of Sydney, Main Building.

Victoria Barracks, Paddington.

**284 Queen Street, Campbelltown.

288-290 Queen Street, Campbelltown.

**292-294 Queen Street, Campbelltown.

**298 Queen Street, Campbelltown.

Argyle Place, Sydney.

Bligh House, 43 Lower Fort Street, Sydney.

Cleaveland House, Bedford Street, Surry Hills.

Windsor Court House.

The Doctor's House, Thompson Square, Windsor.

Hobartville, Richmond.

Glenalvon, Campbelltown.

Denbigh, Narellan.

Macquarie Field House.

*Buildings proclaimed under Clause 38 of the County of Cumberland Planning Scheme Ordinance.

**Buildings acquired and now under the care of the State Planning Authority of New South Wales.

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